

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



Volume 3, Issue 9
March 15, 1988

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Larry Bird

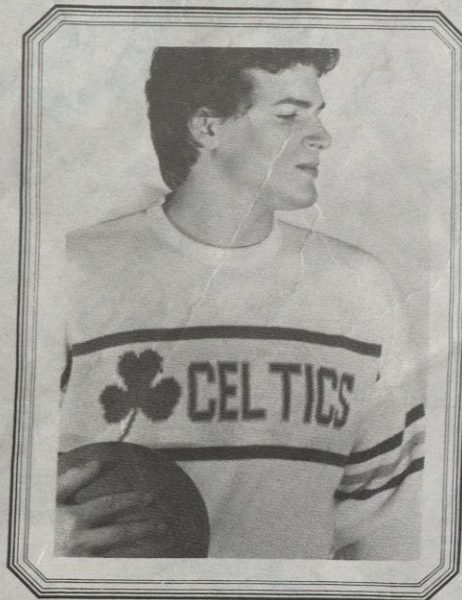
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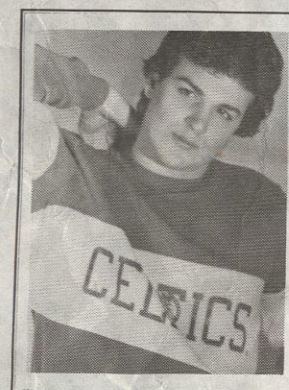
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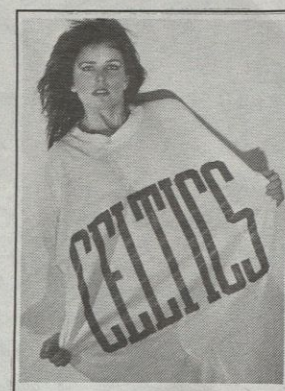
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Unveiling Ceremonies Special to Larry

He is the man who has made the First Team All-NBA team since the first day he stepped onto an NBA floor. He is the leading scorer (average) in the spectacular Boston Celtics' franchise history. He is the finest all-around player to ever play the game.

Take that from The Authority, Red Auerbach. "If I had to start a team," Red Auerbach told an affair hosted to unveil the statue of Larry Bird, "I would begin with Bird. He is the best."

So fitting an introduction to the creation of a life-sized statue of Bird as sculpted by artist Armand LaMontagne of Rhode Island. Larry, complete in a white Celtics jersey, is poised to take a free throw. The wooden figure is 7 feet high, and weighs 275 pounds. It was carved from one 1,800-pound block of basswood and the value, unofficially, is in excess of \$250,000.

A private gala dinner was held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Boston for Bird, his family (including his mother Georgia Bird and brother Michael) and his closest friends. The theme of the evening was "This is Your Life" and was hosted by Bob Ryan of the *Boston Globe*. Guests included Red Auerbach, Dave Cowens (Chairman of the Sports Museum, where the statue will be placed permanently after a Bank of Boston-hosted tour through selected cities in New England), Celtics owner Alan Cohen, GM Jan Volk and coach K.C. Jones. Others included John Hannah, Joan Benoit Samuelson and Bobby Orr.

The following afternoon the New England Sports Museum and the Bank of Boston held a press conference to unveil the statue. It was a very proud moment for the great Bird, who addressed the gathered media. "I'm very thrilled to be a part of something like this. It's a real tribute.

"I had seen photographs of what Armand had done with a sculpture of Ted Williams, the baseball great. I was amazed at what he could do. He makes his own tools. . . . He's an inventor as well as a sculptor. He asked me to do different things: hold the ball a certain way, and then focus on how I shoot the free throw. It wasn't very hard, really (to pose for five hours) because the effect was so meaningful.

"I really respected the work ethic involved. I



Larry Bird: Thrilled and Honored

saw that he had good days and bad days, that when he had the feeling going, he could go on and on, but that if the creative feeling wasn't there, he'd leave it after an hour some days. That was something I could really identify with."

The precision of the art was brilliant: each contour perfectly etched, from the hairs on Bird's arms to the familiar black sneakers. From the newly modeled haircut to the scar under his right eye.

The statue was unveiled to the Boston Garden crowd at halftime of the Celtics' game against the Indiana Pacers, February 3rd. After a tour, the statue will be in the Museum. The Chairman, Dave Cowens, lauded the artist's effort further.

"I think there was a great match here. Look at what Red said about Larry. We all appreciate Larry and what he's accomplished. And Armand's place is simply incredible. All I can say is that walking into Armand LaMontagne's studio is very enchanting. It's like going into another world, in another time. A perfect match: the skills of Armand and Larry Bird."

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MARCH 15, 1988

Cover ...

Recently, fans at the Garden were treated to a sight which would stagger the imagination ... two Larry Birds! Sculptor Armand LaMontagne spent countless hours crafting this tribute to the great one. Cover photography by Steve Lipofsky.



Features ...

4 Homage to Greatness

As Larry Bird's career and performances mature into perhaps the best year he's ever had, it was only fitting to pause a moment in early February and appreciate his contributions to the Celtics.

8 Rookie Report Card

By way of a midterm examination, writer Bob Ryan shares his views on the league's current rookie crop. Find out which teams may need to have their freshmen attend summer school.

10 Unsung Heros

The recent roster changes on the Celtics reflect Red Auerbach's philosophy towards adding that one player who's willing to forfeit personal stats for team success. Writer Bob Schron takes a look at those Unsung Heros of the past.

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MARCH 15, 1988

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Athlete and Artist: The Common Bond

Two Larry Birds?

By Jan Wrotnowski

Passion and Precision,
Instinct and effort,
Intensity and tenacity . . .

Combinations that can produce both superior athletic achievement and outstanding artistic creation.

Athlete and Artist,
Subject and Sculptor,
Larry Bird and Armand LaMontagne . . .

A combination that has wrested a moment of peak performance from a massive block of wood.

Hey! Hold on a minute! Let's not forget who we're dealing with here. On the one hand, we have one of the greatest basketball players ever and on the other hand, we have a world-renowned, self-taught sculptor (who went to BC on a football scholarship). So let's not wax too poetic. Getting caught up in the very lofty heights of art criticism has its time and place. But you can be sure of one thing, this particular athlete and this particular artist are not spending their time cruising around in the clouds somewhere. No way; they're just two country boys at heart, Bird and LaMontagne, two very earthy guys. So while we still have the chance, let's get back down to earth, (before the importance of this artistic moment takes us any further up).

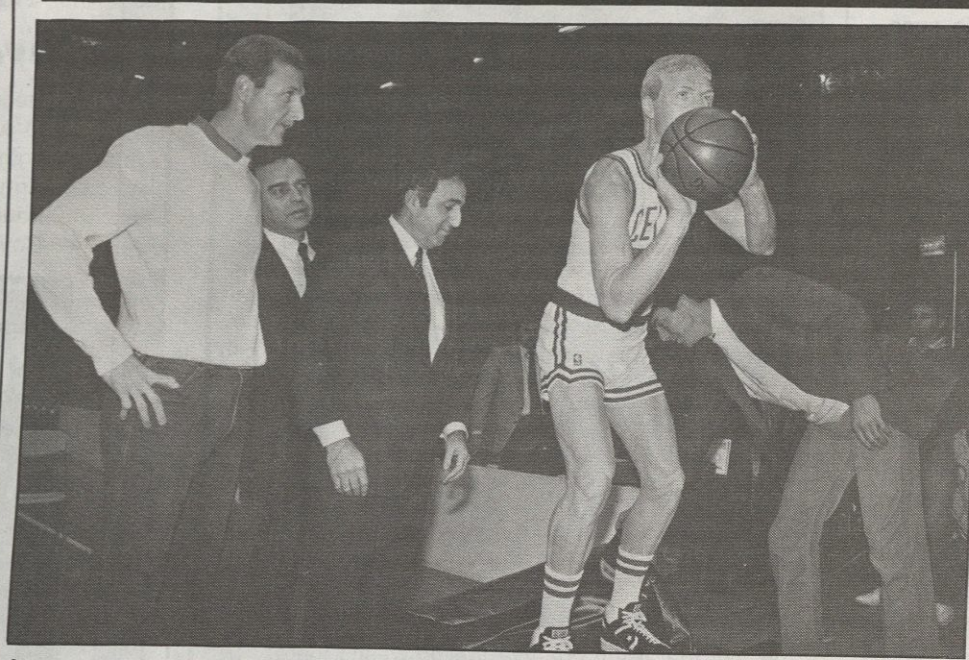
Getting beyond the labels other people put on us, that's always a challenge. All the time people are telling Armand LaMontagne that he "doesn't look like an artist." Just further evidence of those same preconceived notions carried around by so many of us, including professional athletes. Artists get categorized as weird, strange, flaky, to name just a few of the choice adjectives. And sure, there are some flakes out there in the art world. But there are some flakes in every profession. And honestly, Armand LaMontagne is no flake. Meeting him, and experiencing his work, that will help shake up your thinking about artists.

Now you already know LaMontagne has to be an all-right guy. Larry Bird consented to sit for him, right? And so did the great Ted Williams. So what is it about *this* artist? What gives him this special rapport with athletes?

It's all in the process, LaMontagne's creative process. Athletes understand that. They appreciate what he's trying to do. They admire the fruits of his labor, and along the way they sense the similarities to their own work process.

There's the physical component of LaMontagne's work. Like athletics, sculpting (in wood or stone) is a very physical activity. Most times both the artist and the athlete have been working at their craft from a very early age, ever striving to raise it to the level of art. Both involve the use of gross and fine motor skills. For LaMontagne, it takes gross motor skills to swing that mallet, making those bigger cuts, and very fine motor skills to wield those smaller tools, producing the intricate detailing. And with LaMontagne in particular, it's the physical energy he exudes from the gut. It makes for a readily felt, easily formed connection between him and his athlete-subjects.

LaMontagne's process involves taking



Larry and Armand with the creation.

risks. And the great ones definitely admire risk-takers. A little bit of danger certainly can spice up your life. It can get the old heart pumping just a little bit faster. When LaMontagne faces a solid block of wood, he has one shot at it. That's the risk he takes. One wrong move and the whole thing might have to be junked. Even Ted Williams got three strikes. But LaMontagne gets only one!

And just as Larry Bird wouldn't be where he is today without the long and sometimes lonely hours of practice he endures, so, too, the sculptor, who spends most of his time struggling with that big hunk of wood, one-on-one, alone in his studio. So you've gotta love your work to make that kind of commitment and stick with it. Sure, public applause and awards may come, but as LaMontagne says, "You can't ever be bored with your own company. (For this work) is like sex, it's done privately, and then your issue becomes public."

For LaMontagne, as for Bird, the work is all-consuming. It can even become an obsession, so much so that in Armand's case he says "My wife will say it's time to eat. And I'll say, Oh, another interruption!" Not great for marital bliss, but that's the

kind of dedication these guys feel.

Another quality LaMontagne has in common with great athletes is his tendency toward perfectionism. That aspect is where you're never quite satisfied with your work, because "once you're satisfied, you should hang 'em up." The kind of perfectionism that drives you to keep pushing, to train harder, to become stronger, to go that extra mile. And it's just this shared quality that aids LaMontagne in convincing men like Bird and Williams to sit for him.

Great athletes pay attention to every little detail. Nothing's too small. For example, in Larry's case, reportedly he noticed that one of his statue's knuckles didn't quite match up to his own. (The statue's had grain lines, while his is actually shiny and smooth.) LaMontagne easily and happily corrected this, because he's the same kind of perfectionist. The amazing detail of his life-size portraits attest to that. And furthermore, life can imitate art, too. Perfectionist that he is, Bird made sure to have his hair cut exactly like his statue's, just prior to its public unveiling.

LaMontagne chose to capture Larry in wood at a moment that he, as an artist, probably could understand quite well. The

statue depicts Bird poised for a foul shot. It portrays those few seconds of absolute concentration when Bird is getting the target firmly fixed in his sights. On the foul line you're alone, no defenders to molest you. And if you've practiced your routine faithfully nothing will be able to break your total concentration. Truly a moment that embodies what both Bird's and LaMontagne's achievements represent. With enough hard work, dedication, commitment and attention to detail you will succeed at your chosen goals.

Naturally, as an artist, especially one who attempts virtually to "clone" living human beings, LaMontagne has a trained eye, similar to the superior court vision of Bird. His powers of observation are very highly developed. They have to be, if he's going to get his hands to create what he demands of them. And thus also LaMontagne has to be an astute observer of human behavior. Working one-on-one with Larry in the studio, he had to get to know him. The way he walks, moves, his skin texture, his hair color. But beyond the physical, surface details, the artist also has to get a feel for the person inside the body he's re-creating. For if a statue is to be truly successful, it must also embody some part of the subject's spirit, the inner essence of the real-life man. And so during the sculpting process, LaMontagne acquired some insights into the nature of Larry Bird, the living, breathing human being.

"I knew it when I saw his fingernails all chewed up . . . He's a worrier . . . He always gives 100%, continually. That's his style. He knows no other way."

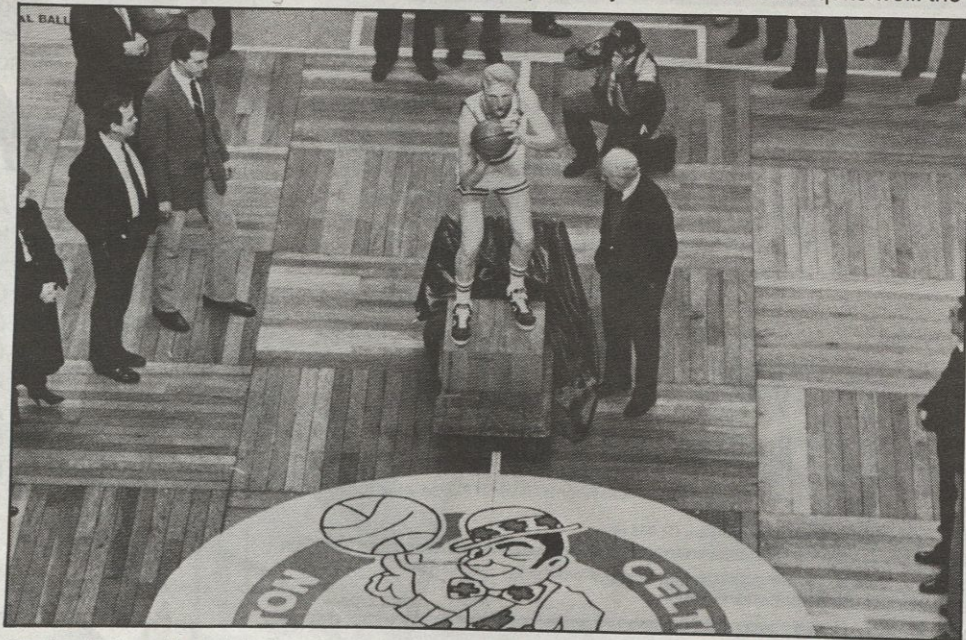
But the sculptor found Larry to be a pretty relaxed guy when he visited his studio. When the statue was nearly complete, Larry dropped by to check it out. Jokingly he planted himself beside his wooden likeness, striking the same pose and said, "I could see this being unveiled at Boston Garden before a game. And that opposing team comes out, they see two Larry Birds out there, and they go right back in the dressing room!" Of course, that's just the kind of confidence that wins Long-Distance Shoot-Outs (and NBA championships, we hope.)

Then at the private unveiling ceremony/fundraiser for the New England Sports Museum, LaMontagne was quite moved when Bird related what his true source of inspiration prior to games at the Garden is:

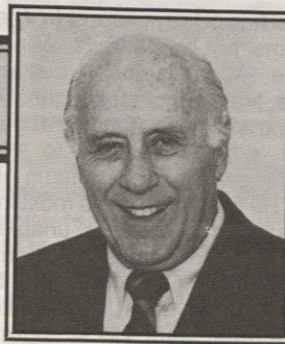
"Every time the national anthem's played, everybody thinks I'm looking up at the flag, but I'm not. Actually I'm looking at something right next to the flag. There's a banner with a number 4 on it. The reason for that is that number inspires me. It inspires me to get out there and give it all I've got. It helps me to psych up, to get ready to play."

Fortunately, Number 4, Bobby Orr, was also in attendance to hear Bird's tribute.

Athlete and Artist, Bird and LaMontagne, two guys cut from the same kind of cloth, really. They're practical, down-to-earth, straight-talking realists. As LaMontagne says, "A lot of people collect Picassos. But when it came to having their portrait done, they didn't choose Picasso!" And of course, Larry didn't choose someone like Picasso either, he chose Armand LaMontagne. And it's no wonder they worked so well together; Birds of a feather, you know . . .



Red admires the style.



By Red Auerbach

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of *Celtics Pride*. If you have a question for Red, please send it to *Celtics Pride*, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: One of the obvious advantages for the Celtics at Boston Garden is knowing where the "dead spots" on the parquet floor are. Is the floor put together exactly the same way every game, even the squares with only brown wood?

Matthew Thomas,
St. Albans, WV

RED'S ANSWER: The "dead spots" on our parquet floor have long been a subject of discussion among players, fans and media. Everyone knows that there are spots on that floor where the ball doesn't bounce back quite as high as on other spots. Still, ours isn't the only floor in the league that's assembled square by square; they all are, and those other floors must have "dead spots" too. I guess that it is assumed that our floor has more than the others because of its age. The funny thing is that players never complain about our floor, either Celtics or those on visiting teams. They love playing on the floor because it's "soft" and gives them good traction and bounce. Sure, there are some occasional bad bounces, and obviously our guys have a better idea where the "dead spots" are than the visitors, but you never hear gripes about that being a big advantage for us. Of course, the floor is just one element of our huge home-court advantage, which we've built into the strongest home record in NBA history over the past three years. Probably, any objections about the floor that might exist, get lost in the larger picture.

QUESTION: I am a Boston Celtics fan. Where can I write the players?

Patricia Morski,
Covina, Calif.

RED'S ANSWER: You can address a letter to the players to our front office here in Boston. The address is: c/o Boston Celtics, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114. In fairness to the guys, though, don't expect a reply. You should understand that the players receive a lot of fan mail; I'm sure whoever you write will read your letter, but time prevents them from answering every letter they get.

QUESTION: If I'm not wrong, the last time that an NBA All-Star Game was held in Boston was in 1964, when the East team defeated the West (110-107). As a diehard Celtics fan, I'd love to know when the next NBA All-Star Game will take place at Boston Garden.

Orlando Ramos,
Pawtucket, R.I.

RED'S ANSWER: That's a timely question, with the 1988 All-Star Game just having concluded. You're right about the last game in Boston having been held in 1964, although the final score was actually 111-107 in favor of the East. As a matter of fact, I coached the East team in that game, one of 11 All-Star Games that I coached (my overall record was 7-4). Now, as far as having the All-Star Game back in Boston in the near future, I've got to tell you that it's not probable. The NBA has done a great job of turning the All-Star Weekend — not just the game itself, but the entire weekend, with the Legends Game, the Long

ASK RED

Distance Shootout and the Slam-Dunk Contest — into such a grand event, that I'm afraid it has simply outgrown our capacity and that of the Boston Garden. As I'm sure you know, we have sold out each of our last 344 games at the Garden as of this writing; that is evidence of our strong fan and season ticket support. When the league now brings their All-Star Weekend into a city, their demand for tickets — for sponsors, league officials, individual team officials, etc. — is huge, and we couldn't even begin to satisfy that demand without excluding some of our season ticket holders from the events. We just won't do that to our supporters, so we're at a sort of impasse with the NBA about bringing the game back here. We could handle the media attention; after all, we've had the NBA Finals here each of the past four years. But the building does not have enough seats to handle both the league's needs and those of our season ticket holders. In fact, I think that the NBA is now leaning toward holding the All-Star events only in those cities which have domed multi-use stadiums, like Detroit, Seattle, Houston or Minneapolis.

QUESTION: During past seasons, the overhead scoreboard in the Boston Garden has displayed a sign that says, "Say L.A." Why in the world would the Celtics, Bruins or the New Boston Garden Corporation want to advertise for anything about Los Angeles?

Andy Twohig,
Scituate, MA

RED'S ANSWER: I'm not sure, Andy, whether you're kidding with this question or not. If you're serious, though,

rest easy: that sign is advertising a brand of beer, not anything relating to the city of Los Angeles.

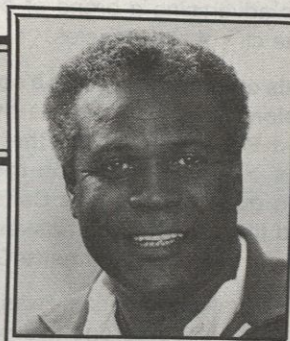
QUESTION: Help! This question has been a source of many, many discussions. In the 1976 triple-overtime playoff game against Phoenix, why did the referee judge that there was one second left on the clock when the buzzer had gone off after the Celtics had scored what seemed like the winning basket?

Jeannette Gunther

RED'S ANSWER: The situation in that game was unique. The event you are referring to was one I've not seen before or since that game, and it was just one incredible event in a series of events during what might have been the greatest game in NBA history. To the best of my recollection, here's what happened. John Havlicek hit what we thought was the game-winning shot with one second left in the second overtime, putting us one point ahead in the game. In those days, however, the Boston Garden game clock was a mechanical one, which sometimes slipped a second after the operator turned it off; now, of course, we have an electronic clock that registers 1/100ths of a second. When the clock slipped that final second, pandemonium erupted in the building, with fans and players out celebrating on the court, thinking the game had ended; in fact, one of the referees in the game, Richie Powers, got into a tussle with a fan right in front of me at midcourt. When things were sorted out, though, the officials ruled that there was one second left, and Paul Westphal of the Suns called a timeout, even though his team was actually out of timeouts. Therefore, when play was resumed, we were given a technical free throw to penalize the Suns for taking a timeout they didn't have. Jo Jo White hit the free throw, putting us two points ahead, but Garfield Heard of Phoenix hit an incredible 30-foot jumper to tie the game and send it into the third and final overtime. As any true follower of the Celtics knows, we won that game, and that championship, finally. But that game — with all the confusion and heroics — was one I'll never forget.

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COACH'S CORNER

By K.C. Jones

First Half Rankings

Some summarizing thoughts from the first half of a season in which we went from being a mediocre team to one of the best teams in the league.

The Celtics. We made a commitment this season to accomplish three major goals. First, we wanted to run more and take better care of the basketball. This included making better decisions in our halfcourt offense. Second, we wanted to rebound better and get our bench on the floor for more minutes per game. Third, we wanted to come out and play better on the road. Other than the uncontrollable injury factor, which claimed 22 games from our starters and 22 from our key reserve guard Jerry Sichting, the team has played well throughout the first half of the year. All in all, I believe we slipped in November and December when we lost seven out of eleven games, but I'm pleased. Our turnover ranking, with 16.8 committed per game, is tied for 9th in the league, but I have to be satisfied because we have run the ball up the floor more (absolutely imperative in this era of athleticism and size on the floor). Our road record has improved and I'm pleased, generally, that we have been more intense away from the Garden. I thought we were inconsistent last week at Milwaukee and at Houston (both defeats). Our record on the road is 14-11, second in the league. We must play effectively from the opening tap on the road. (But we must win — and play well — in all games during the present West Coast trip. Detroit and Atlanta mean business this season.)

Mark Acres. Acres has come in and played very steadily for us this year. He was penalized, like all rookies, and drew a considerable number of personal fouls. Acres helped us win key games against Indiana and Seattle in November and recently, in our 124-106 win in Boston against Atlanta. He's a good young player, with good hands and aggressiveness at center and power forward.

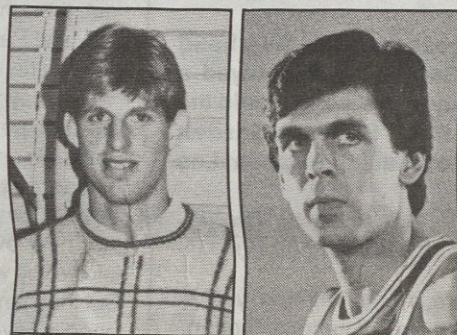
Danny Ainge. Danny's selection to the All-Star team was welcome news for the coaches of this team. He's played outstanding ball for us now for five years. Sacrificed his individual offense for several years, but never complained. Now he has free rein with his pet three-point shot, but this only highlights his game, which is total. If you want to watch basketball as it should be played, watch Danny Ainge without the ball, offensively and defensively.

Larry Bird. Larry has been tremendous for us this year but I'm not saying anything that wasn't heretofore known. I can't think of any player who was ever as self-motivated to excel as Larry, and this sets him apart. He's found a perfect conditioning state now, too; so there's the shooting, rebounding, passing, leadership, street-

fighter attitude, and now, an imposing endurance. In some ways, he's never been better offensively.

Darren Daye. I think Darren will help us this season. Again. He carried us offensively early but he seemed to go into a slump once we had all of our team back and he had to come off the bench again. I just wasn't seeing the things I wanted to see from him in late December, so I had to cut his minutes. Hard work on the practice floor will bring those back.

Artis Gilmore. Adding Artis to our team had a compound effect on the team. He was very excited about coming to Boston to play with Robert Parish, and the players, to a man, were extremely pleased about having him. Artis has been a help; he's a shot-blocker, an intimidator and though his minutes are short, against players like Laimbeer and Mahorn of Detroit and Carroll of Houston and Daugherty of Cleveland, Artis will help us.



Brad Lohaus

Kevin McHale

Dennis Johnson. Dennis has been injured some this season, but there's no way of communicating how much he means to this team. When the games are on the line, Dennis rises to the challenge. We wanted to get him some rest for his chronically bad shoulder in mid-January, against Chicago and Michael Jordan, because of the picks he has to constantly contend with. He's made an adjustment when he's played with Dirk Minniefield, playing more off the ball, but that's nothing new. Dennis has played the point, taken the opposition's top man on defense... a complete player.

Reggie Lewis. Reggie can play the game. I respect the way he works out there in practice. He's attentive to what we're trying to teach and his talent is impressive for a rookie. We felt he just wasn't ready yet to handle extended minutes at the off-guard position. But he's been a factor for our team, early in the season and in making practices competitive.

Brad Lohaus. Brad has a lot of ability and I have been impressed with his attitude and his willingness to stay attentive on the bench, even when he doesn't play. He has been somewhat inconsistent, but better lately. I have thought all along his confidence on offense was very good for a rookie, but he's needed work in two important areas: post-up offense and better positioning and concentration on defense.

Kevin McHale. I've been very pleased with Kevin's play this season, not an easy one for him after beginning the year on the injured list. He had difficulties regaining his game conditioning at the beginning, but his influence on what we try to do on the offensive end continues. I think his defen-

sive mobility might have been reduced by the injury. We've gone to some different defensive schemes at times to make Kevin our primary shot-blocker. The man made the All-Star team this season, after missing the first 14 games of the year. That's indicative of the respect he commands.

Dirk Minniefield. Dirk Minniefield's defense and running game have been the highlight of the first half of the season. He showed an instant grasp of running the offense and when Dennis was injured, he came in and went after Michael Jordan like it was an invitation to the dance. What's exceptional about Dirk is that he is creative on offense and he's a hard-nosed defensive player. That's an unusual combination.

Robert Parish. Robert is the Rodney Dangerfield of our team. But he's had a

fine first half of the season. He's had ankle problems, but he's always willing to take on the Abdul-Jabbar, Ewings, Olajuwons, Malones of the league. No question. And what's outstanding about Robert Parish is his willingness to work hard when he senses that the team has a let-down. He has some of his most important games when we seem unable to get ourselves up for games that might appear to be laughers. Often those are the times you lose in an upset. Robert keeps us being a great team. His strength and defensive awareness excel for us.

Fred Roberts. We still believe in Fred although his minutes have been down recently. He's a tremendous team player and his skills on the open floor are a factor in our offensive planning. It's an eighty-two game season; players have to be ready to contribute in unexpected minutes. Fred Roberts' attitude is his strength; he's able to stay in condition.

Jerry Sichting. We wanted Jerry to stay back in Boston during this trip, but he played extremely well during early December (LA, Philadelphia, etc.) The man shot 75% over a month's stretch. We need him to win.

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GOOD FOOD, GOOD TIMES, GOOD SPORTS

NOTES AND QUOTES

By Jim Rucidlo

"I've never said this before, but I'm going to say it now: Larry Bird is the greatest player ever to play the game of basketball."

— Red Auerbach
"An Evening with Larry Bird"
February 2, 1988

Despite Boston's reputation as a big team, there were only five teams smaller than the Celtics last season: Sacramento, Denver, Philadelphia, Atlanta and the Clippers. The average height of Celtics players was a hair over 6' 6 3/4", or 78.78". League average was 79.19".

Phoenix boasted the tallest squad, with an average player height just over 6' 8". The Lakers registered right behind the Suns at exactly 6' 8".

"When the national anthem is being played at the Garden before a game, I focus my eyes on No. 4 hanging in the rafters (Bobby Orr's retired Bruin number). It's spine-tingling, it gets me ready for the game."

— Larry Bird

On 1986-87 NBA rosters there were 42 players listed as 7 feet or taller, while only six players admitted to being 6 feet or under, making 5' 3" Tyrone Bogues accomplishments all the more impressive.

Indiana mentor Jack Ramsey on Dirk Minniefield: "He's played consistently better every time he's back in the league. We had him at a summer camp in Portland, and frankly we just didn't think he was good enough. He's improved greatly with his outside shot, he's taking the open shot, and he's not afraid to take it to the hoop. He's always been a good defensive player. I'm really happy for him."

Milestones: this season Robert Parish has eclipsed the 15,000 career-point mark, Kevin McHale the 10,000 mark, and Danny Ainge the 5,000 mark.

Q: Entering the game against Dallas at Reunion Arena, Larry Bird's 16,762 career-NBA points was tops on the Celtics. Who was second?
A: Artis Gilmore

John Havlicek's 26,395 points is fifth-best in league history and the Celtics best ever. The closest active player entering the season was Moses Malone, who has scored 20,096 points in 11 NBA seasons.

Havlicek played in 1,270 games during a span of 16 seasons. At the end of last year, Larry Bird had been in the NBA for eight seasons and 635 games, or exactly half the time of Hondo. Projecting Bird's current statistics over a 16 year career, he would finish with 31,016 points — a total exceeded only by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (36,474+) and Wilt Chamberlain (31,419).

"I don't hope to instill my style of play. If that were the case, I'd be back coaching my son's 7th-grade team," said Wes Unseld, who refuses to take any of the credit for the good things happening in Washington.

Larry Bird on his statue: "I thought the guy did a great job. He wanted to capture the intensity and I think he did. It's something you dream of having, but never really think about. It's a great tribute."

Spoke the teacher K.C. Jones: "I've been talking a lot this week with Brad about his defense. Right now I'm hunting and pecking trying to find the players who can do the job off the bench — who can do it with consistency. I haven't found the production I want yet from the bench; that production has to be on defense. If they were that good on offense, they wouldn't be on the bench."

"Anyone can play offense, or think they can, but defense tells the whole story to me. A player is not earning his minutes if he scores and then gets beat at the other end. When you are a six-footer, you can reach on defense, but when you're a seven-footer, you keep your hands to yourself."

Replied the pupil Brad Lohaus: "K.C. told me I'd have to produce on defense if I wanted to get some minutes. I got my chance tonight and I just wanted to make the most of it. He's been discussing defense with me a lot in practice and I thought I might get my chance soon. He's been after me to move my feet and stop reaching on defense."

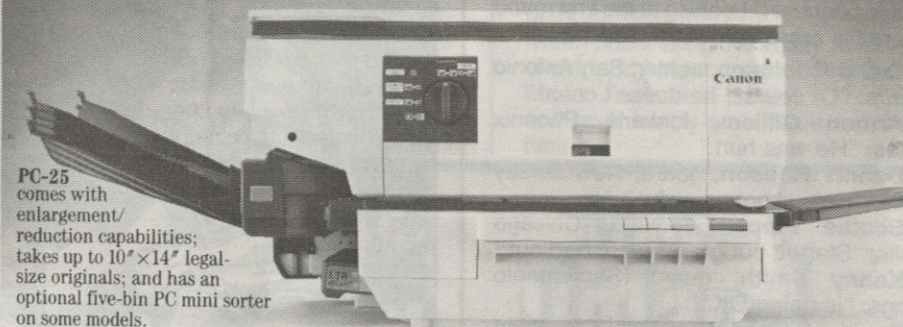
"I just have to keep working hard and hopefully I'll get a chance again. Getting the minutes earlier was a lot of fun because it's much easier to play when the team is ahead. I'm getting good workouts in practice because Artis Gilmore is the strongest person I've ever played against. You can't put a body on him and block him out."

"In the past I've always hustled, but I was too hyper. Now I'm learning what to do: I try to focus in on the assignments and I'm calming down. K.C. has been after me about moving my feet, because most times I get into the game I'm playing smaller forwards. This is a great team to play for because the ball always comes to you. Everyone on the team is unselfish."

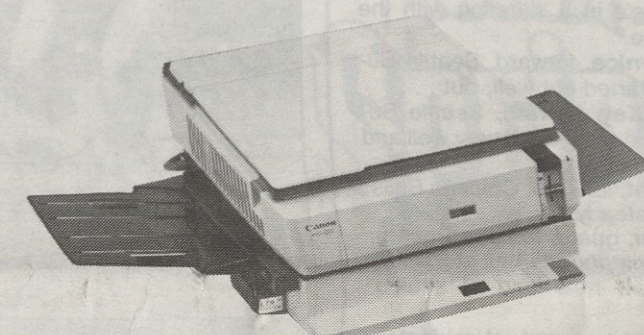
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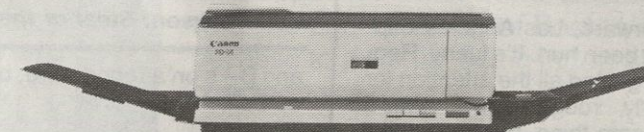
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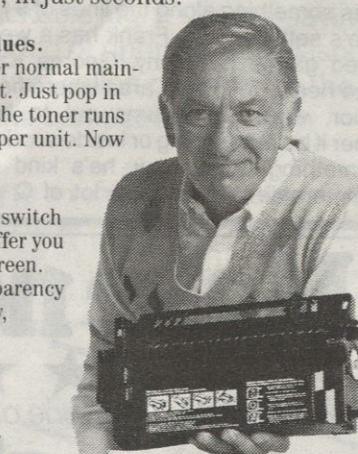
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Bob Ryan's Rookie Report Card

Posting Grades

By Jan Wrotnowski

The NBA freshmen have completed their first semester. Finals are over. And now here's Bob Ryan of the *Boston Globe*, posting their grades: "I'd say, by and large, the first round of 1987 has been very unproductive. There isn't any question that Mark Jackson would run away with the Rookie of the Year award right now. I would concur... Looking at the first round it's really amazing..."

David Robinson, center, San Antonio Spurs: "Of course, he doesn't count."

Armon Gilliam, forward, Phoenix Suns: "He was hurt."

Dennis Hopson, guard, New Jersey Nets: "He's shooting awful."

Scottie Pippen, forward, Chicago Bulls: "Started out great and fizzled out."

Kenny Smith, guard, Sacramento Kings: "is doing OK."

Devin Johnson, guard, Cleveland Cavaliers: "He's in a situation with the numbers game."

Olden Polynice, forward, Seattle SuperSonics: "Started out well, but..."

Derrick McKey, forward, Seattle SuperSonics: "Also started out very well and then he slowed down."

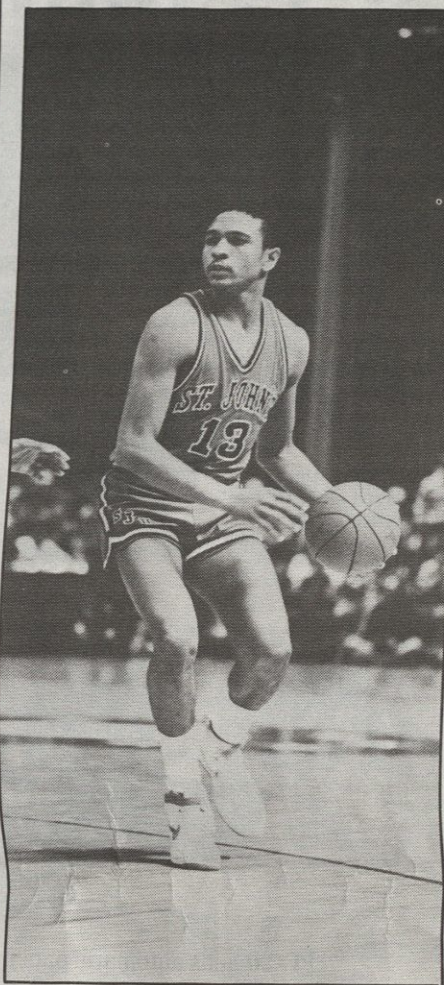
Horace Grant, forward, Chicago Bulls: "Grant's been steady."

Reggie Miller, guard, Indiana Pacers: "Miller was a great thunderbolt at the beginning, and now he's kind of settled down."

Tyrone Bogues, guard, Washington Bullets: "Bogues will be debated as long as he plays."

Joe Wolf, forward, Los Angeles Clippers: "Wolf has been hurt. It's funny, Reggie Williams is getting all the attention for shooting poorly, roughly 38%. Wolf's shooting the same thing, but people like Wolf's game. I guess Williams just took so many horrible shots. He (Williams) has no sense of shot selection, which surprises many people who thought he was such a well-schooled player. But Williams looks very wild out there. Of course, they changed positions on him. It's a terrible atmosphere anyway, but Wolf's seemed to have dealt with it better."

Tellis Frank, center, Golden State Warriors: "Frank had a terrible shooting start. He was something along the lines of 9 for 40. He's settled down. Frank has a well-rounded game. It's funny, George Karl said he needs to find an area where he's superior, whatever it turns out to be, whether it be rebounding or inside scoring or something. Right now, he's kind of more interested in having a lot of C+s



Mark Jackson: Steal of the Draft?

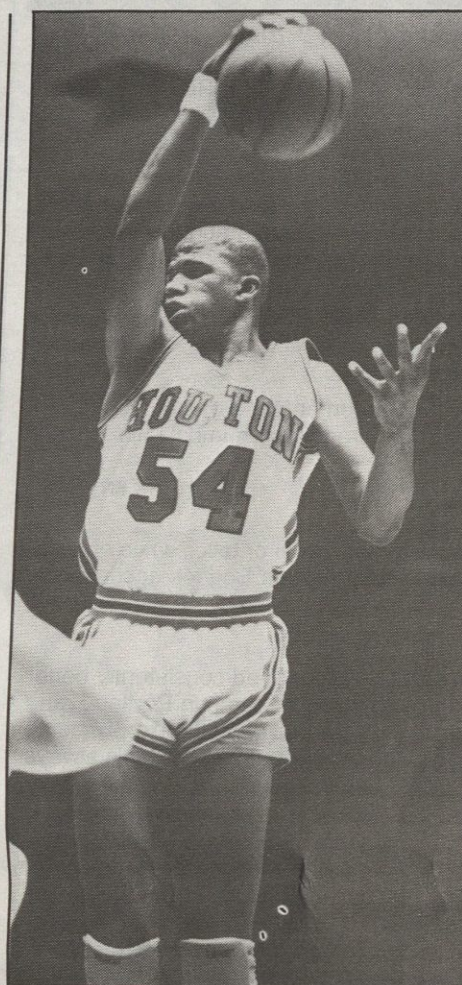
and B—s on a report card, but no As and no Fs."

Christian Welp, center, Philadelphia Sixers: "Welp is hurt; incomplete."

Ronnie Murphy, guard, Portland Trail Blazers: "Murphy was controversial to start with. He has an attitude problem. And he came in fat. He's never gotten off the mark."

Mark Jackson, guard, New York Knicks: "Jackson's been a revelation, the eighteenth pick. Just knows how to play. He's absolutely a throw-back ballplayer. He is not the quickest, he's not the tallest, he's not the strongest. There's no physical reason why he should be a better point guard than certain other players... except it's all from the neck up. He's absolutely a complete 1950s player with a 1980s sensibility and body."

Jim Farmer, guard, Dallas Mavericks:



Greg Anderson: Looking Good

"He wasn't expected to do much and certainly hasn't."

Dallas Comegys, forward, New Jersey Nets: "Put a little asterisk next to Comegys. He has ability, raw ability. He has confidence. He plays kind of cocky. He should turn into something decent, if the cockiness doesn't go to the next step, into arrogance. People have always had him in a gray area, because he played so infrequently well in college. Really, essentially he played 1½ or two good years out of 4. His freshman year and his senior year were his best. And in the middle, he was kind of floundering. And, nobody ever said he was a bug or anything, but an aura developed that maybe he wasn't a good person to have around. He's gotta live that down."

Reggie Lewis, guard/forward, Boston Celtics: "Lewis is meeting the fate of the average Boston rookie. You get lip service and some time in training camp, but you're given no chance to play through mistakes. And your faults are dwelled on, and your strengths are not emphasized once the season starts. It's very difficult to gauge where he stands. He does offer them something they can't get anywhere else, in that he is an instant scoring machine type of player. But, he's learning a new position. He may be suffering from the overall level of his collegiate competition. He had some excellent games against good teams. But most of his games, unfortunately, were against the Maines and New Hampshires, and it is not a good breeding ground. I, personally, have faith that he can become a good player. I think that the Celtics are a bad team for a rookie to come to, at any time. Since he's not an acknowledged star,

Reggie's going to have a hard time making it. He would have an easier time with another team."

Greg Anderson, forward, San Antonio Spurs: "Anderson's second only to Jackson. You don't hear as much about him any more. But you don't hear anything bad, either. But he's going to make a lot of people look bad, apparently. He's a better offensive player than people realized. Everybody knew he could rebound, but thought he had no offense whatsoever. But he's had a 30-point game."

Out of the second round, let's see if anyone's distinguished himself:

Ron Moore, forward, Detroit Pistons: "Moore was an old rookie, he's 25. He's a 'tweener. He's barely the 6-10 he's supposed to be, nowhere near the 7 feet people thought he was. He doesn't have a position. He's a finesse player, with a fat-boy body. I don't think he'll ever make it. I think people were wise to pass him up."

Steve Alford, guard, Dallas Mavericks: "Sad but true, the skeptics right now appear to have been right. He's being completely humiliated in his present circumstances. It must be brutal being Steve Alford right now. I don't know what to say. I thought he could do it and become what Mark Price is becoming. Right now, he's obviously, absolutely, the 13th man on a 12-man team."

Nate Blackwell, guard: "Blackwell was going to have a difficult time ever making it, he never had a jump shot. But he had a great head, equal to Jackson's. But he had a strange game that really was a 1950s game. And a couple of teams that looked at it, decided that it couldn't translate into the '80s, I guess."

Rickie Winslow, forward: "A big hunk of raw talent. He was a great, great high school player. Never really did it in college. I'm guessing, just guessing, but my rule of thumb is that guys should never go to school in their home towns, if they have a certain type of personality. The hangers-on, the leeches are around you. I suspect Rickie Winslow would've been better off going 3,000 miles from home."

Lester Fonville, center: "I'm told Fonville's the ultimate project. He'll be back. He's in Europe. He has no offense, but he can block shots. So he might resurface."

Nikita Wilson, forward, Portland Trail Blazers: "Wilson is just a typical rookie, carrying the gym bags. And he's gotten no playing time. He had a turnaround jumper, that was the one thing; he had a turnaround jumper. One move, and one move is tough unless you're really exceptional."

Tony White, guard: "Now with his third team, but White can score. There probably is a place for him. In fact, he could probably become the Mike Evans of his generation."

Vincent Askew, forward, Philadelphia Sixers: "Askew made a terrible mistake coming out of college early. Not the first, not the last. He could resurface. He's got talent."

Winston Garland, guard: "Garland, who had a 25-point game the other night, obviously has a pretty good basketball head on his shoulders. And Don Nelson believes in him. And I suspect he'll have a good fringe guard career."

Brad Lohaus, forward/center, Boston Celtics: "Lohaus is interesting. In the opinion of many he should be getting steady time. They should be force-feeding this kid on the assumption that there might come a time in the playoffs when somebody will be needed. And he

might be that somebody. He has obvious positives. He is a legitimate 7-footer. He plays 7 feet. He doesn't play 6-10 or 6-9 or 7-3, he plays 7 feet. He's very active and enthusiastic. At home, he's terrific because the crowd responds to him as soon as he steps on the floor. He can shoot an open shot. He doesn't have a variety of moves to get off shots. But he's seven feet! I mean, he's gotta be matched up in a mismatch one way or the other, all the time. I don't think it's an issue. He's a good transition player. He has worked to get a little bit of a low post game with the jump hook. He's a better rebounder than anyone suspected. He's known to be a good passer. So what are the negatives? The negatives are 1) physical strength — he will have problems being overpowered by stronger, more experienced people on the low post. And 2) the flip side — if he's out there guarding someone substantially smaller, this is a general foot speed and experience problem, he could not handle anybody quick, let's say a 6-10 and under, and he might get matched up against that type of person. My thinking is, he can get it back at the other end. I just don't see how he can be ignored. I've heard, they say he needs a lot more experience. He didn't, after all, play very much in college. He started off his senior year just hoping to get in the line-up and never dreaming about being a pro. And had pretty much abandoned all the hopes coming out of high school. It was not a very happy career at Iowa. He has not played anywhere near as much as his contemporaries. And people say that this becomes evident in practice every day. I don't know, I just know that he has achieved enough to warrant steady time. Obviously, the coach is a little more cautious in the matter and doesn't agree."

Billy Donovan, guard, New York Knicks: "His mentor picked him up, there are other people who believe in him. And he might make it. He's such a hard worker, and he is smart. The thing is, he has to prove he can hit the extra shot in the NBA under that kind of pressure, with the bigger, quicker, stronger people coming at him, the same shot he hit in college. Thus far, he has not done it, at any consistent level. And so that question remains open. But can he run a team? And can he pick up 3, 4, 5 assists in 6 or 7 minutes? The answer's yes. He'll work at it. I suspect with experience he'll get it. I would believe that he'll make it. And stick around and have a career."

You drop down to the next round, and you see:

Chris Dudley, center, Cleveland Cavaliers: "He's really a great story. The whole business, the Yale kid, all that, who's a tough guy. You know, he's really a rough kid. That's why he made it. He's got something you wouldn't expect. But there are a lot of guys who make it once, and then they just re-cast the movie the next year. Tim Kempton made it last year with the L.A. Clippers; very much the same kind of player, a little bit smaller. He made the right team at the right time. That could be Dudley's situation. We don't see enough of him to know if he'll ever have the chance. It's still very nice that he made it."

□ □ □

"I don't think anybody lower than that made the NBA. All in all though, that first round is very disappointing at the moment. And the one thing that sticks out is certain people who started off great and reality is now setting in, for whatever reason. I'm sure some of them will get over this hump. This is a traditional problem in the NBA; the middle part of the

season hits rookies hardest, the mental thing: 'My God! We've got 30 games to go!' They're not used to this. They get caught up. People learn what they're all about, the second time around is a lot different. And even if it's a team in the other conference, the scouting reports are so thorough now that there are no secrets. It's hard: And now we find out who the real players are. And generally, that means the ones who have the brains, the ones who can adjust. Adjustment's the key to everything. So we'll see whether the Pippens, the Polynices, the McKeys, the Reggie Milers, will rebound now and come back the way they were in the beginning of the season: And I'm sure one or two will, and I bet one or two don't. As to which ones will do it, I have no idea. But there is no question whatsoever, anybody who votes for someone other than Mark Jackson for the Rookie of the Year, is not doing his home-

work. If balloting were concluding today, I could see no rationale to vote for anyone else."

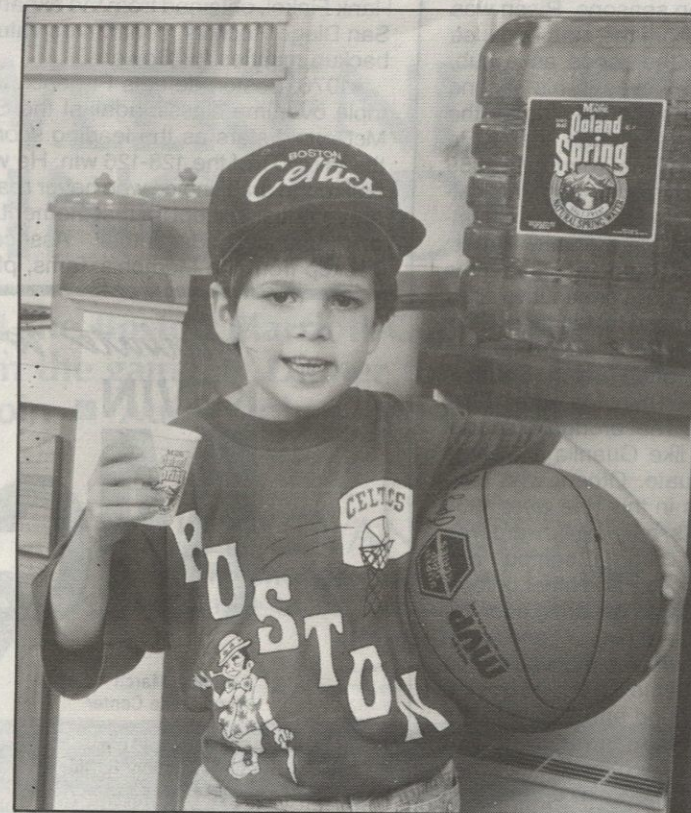
As a final note, mention should be made of:

Mark Acres, forward/center, Boston Celtics: "Acres is an interesting player because he's a coach's son. And your image of a coach's son generally is that of a 6-1 guard. He's a 6-10 kid who has all the attributes of those 6-1 guards. He has a totally well-rounded game. He can put the ball on the floor. He knows how to help people out. He sets picks. When plays break down, he's never at a loss to know what to do out there. And I think the only thing he needs is for someone to say, 'Hey! Show some confidence in your general offensive game!' Acres is reluctant to shoot the ball facing up, at all. As soon as he gets it, he wants to turn around and assume a pivot position. I don't think

it's necessary for him to do that. I think he's shown that he has more to his game than that. But overall, he's an excellent. I mean underline excellent, rebounder. His hands are like shortstop's hands. You don't throw passes that he can't catch, very rare. The same is true of Lohaus, almost to the same extent. They have excellent hands. And this is of course, a completely rare and desirable commodity among big men. They're very blessed to have that, these kids. And I really think Acres has the potential for a solid 8 or 10 year career as a back-up, because he's just well-rounded and intelligent and knows how to play. As I was saying with Mark Jackson, there's a big difference between possessing the ability to run-jump-shoot, and knowing what this game is all about. Jackson is Exhibit A, but on the next level, ability-wise, Mark Acres is Exhibit B."

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Super-Subs Have Always Left Their Marks in Boston

Unsung Heros

By Bob Schron

The unsung hero, a role that has switched back and forth from sports to literature, has played a prominent role in Celtics' history. He has performed his feats from all positions in the Celtics' past: Arnie Risen and Gene Conley played significant roles as centers in the fifties; small forward Gene Guarilia contributed important minutes in the 1962 championship and power player Wayne Embry helped lead an improbable comeback win in 1968. Guard Emmette Bryant starred in 1969.

In the seventies and eighties the long procession continued — from Glenn McDonald and Jimmy Ard in the mid-seventies to the unforeseen contributions of Greg Kite in the eighties.

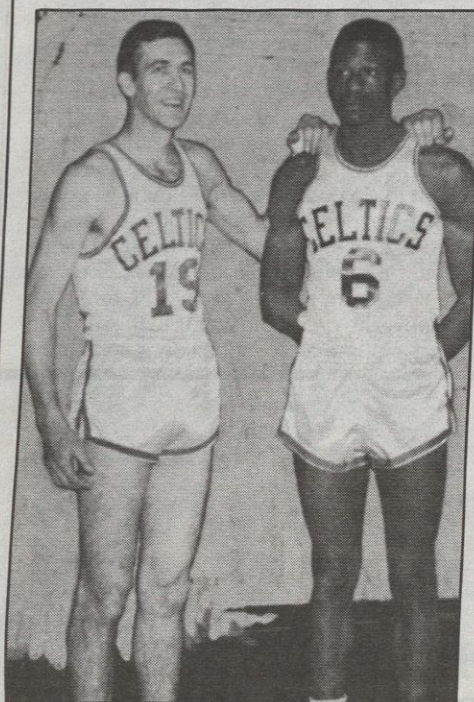
Ironically, this type of player illustrates the dual reality that characterizes the special success of the Celts. They have that undeniable superstar factor: Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, John Havlicek, Dave Cowens, Dennis Johnson and Larry Bird have been among the best ever to play the game. Yet these players have depended not only on a group of complementary types who had talent, they have depended on a type of personality who would accept a more subdued role in the interests of having a better team. The main decision-maker behind this of course, was Red Auerbach. He had, according to Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause "an ability to see twenty-five years into the future. Because he was able to pick out a player who had both talent and the team-oriented personality. It looks and sounds simple, now. But other general managers could only think about building teams one position at a time. Red built by position, but with the idea of the team always in mind."

"I always wanted guys who wanted to play," says Auerbach, who, with sixteen championships, is the most successful coach and executive in the history of the game. "I would try and trade for players who could fit in; maybe they couldn't play significant minutes any more. But if they could play effectively in spots — and knew what it took to win — I wanted that player. But the guys weren't always at the end of their roads.

Another strategy I would use (before telecommunications and scouting combines transformed scouting) would be to call coaches I knew in colleges. I would want to know about the kid as a person, too. And I'd always go to practices."

The unsung hero: he spans generations, from the post-World War II era, when Auerbach had left the Navy and began building teams, from his naval teams to the present, when he and Jan Volk negotiated a deal to bring lifetime Celtics' admirer Bill Walton to Boston.

1951-56. The Pre-Russell Era. Auerbach built a high-powered fast-breaking offense and through his contacts in the service and in his previous coaching stint as head of the Washington Caps, he brought in Bones McKinney, John Mahnken, Dr. Jack Nichols, and Freddy Scolari. McKinney had been an effective post-up player at North Carolina and had played under Auerbach in Washington, as had Mahnken. Scolari ran the offense as a spot player for Cousy and Nichols was an inside player, who had his best season in 1955-56, when the Celtics suffered their

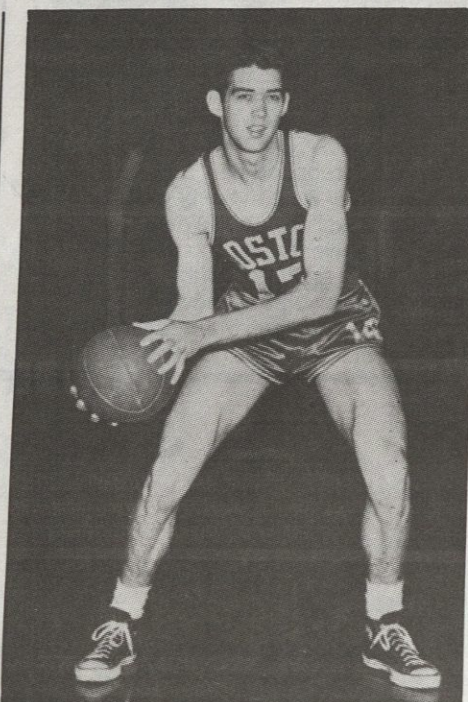


Gene Conley: Tough on Wilt

worst season (39-33) in the post-season, eliminated in three games by the Nats.

1956-59. The Celtics' Dynasty Era, when they won eleven NBA championships in thirteen seasons. Risen was a critical influence from the start because he taught Russell the ropes as a sub. Gene Conley, at 6-9, was in his second stint with the team since pitching for the Milwaukee Braves baseball team. He helped win two semifinal rounds in 1959 and 1960 against Syracuse and Philadelphia respectively. He played Wilt Chamberlain to a standstill in the latter series. Guarilia was also instrumental during the team's streak of eight consecutive titles (1959-66). He stopped a fatigued Elgin Baylor in overtime in the Seventh Game of the 1962 Finals after Satch Sanders fouled out. His seven minutes were critical in the 110-107 win. That brought a special joy to Auerbach, like Guarilia a George Washington graduate. Others who starred for the Celtics in this role were 1964 starter Willie Naulls, reserve forward Don Nelson, guards Larry Siegfried and Bryant, Embry, a center and other unforeseen lights. Naulls was obtained after the former collegiate great (UCLA) and dominating scorer had lost his motivation in a losing situation with the Knicks. In Boston he turned time around and threw in the fast-break context. Nelson was through in the league, cut by an expansion team before Auerbach obtained him on the suggestion of Havlicek. Siegfried and Bryant were an odd Celtics' couple: aggressive, emotional, but steady and uncannily good under pressure. Siegfried led the league in free throw shooting in 1966 and Bryant helped stop Jerry West in The Finals in 1969 as the blistering-hot West nearly won the championship single-handed. Embry was another presence on the Celtics whose backup minutes in the pivot — at the end of his own excellent career as a Celtics' nemesis in Cincinnati — were critical in the 1968 championship.

1970s and 1980s. A New Generation. In the years since the last Russell teams won championships back-to-back, 1967-



Arnie Risen: Taught Russell the Ropes

68 and 1968-69, players of this category thrived as the Celts have won five more championships.

•1974. Boston defeats Milwaukee as Hank Finkel, obtained from the expansion San Diego Rockets, contributes valuable backup minutes for Cowens.

•1976. Boston defeats Phoenix: In the triple overtime classic against the Suns, McDonald stars as the leading scorer in the third OT of the 128-126 win. He was a first round draft choice who never realized his potential. Except for that moment. Ard, an American Basketball Association backup from the Memphis Tams, played

exceptionally well as Cowens struggled with foul trouble in the late stages of games that season.

•1981 and 1984. In two thrilling championship wins over Houston and the Lakers, a critical figure was Gerald Henderson. Obtained from the Continental Basketball Association, Henderson played the decisive defensive minutes in the 1981 post-season. He saved the championship in 1984 with Game Two steal of a James Worthy pass. In 1986 Kite was an instrumental force, physically, as he spelled Robert Parish and Walton against Akeem Olajuwon and Ralph Sampson.

Unforeseen Lights. Finally, what is an unsung hero? Sam Jones played outstanding minutes down the stretch of the 1969 playoffs, when most thought his career was already at an end. The Hall of Famer was reserved by Coach Russell for such a championship rush. Nelson, an outstanding player for the Celtics did the same in 1976. He hadn't played long minutes in weeks before playing a key role in Game Six of the Suns' final. He ran ten miles for conditioning at dawn, before the 10:30 AM tipoff in Phoenix, because he knew the starters wouldn't be able to play much, those players physically depleted after three OTs thirty-six hours earlier. Finally, Walton. Likely the greatest center ever in the college game, he was defeated by injury as a professional. The Celtics obtained Walton when he agreed to take a pay cut to fit in under the Salary Cap as constructed by the 1983 Collective Bargaining Agreement. He agreed to play limited minutes in a backup role and contributed by winning Sixth Man of the Year in the 1986 title season. The past two seasons have evoked the same pattern: Darren Daye starred in the playoffs last year and Dirk Minniefeld appears to be another key unforeseen role player in 1987-88.

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By Eddie Gillooly

My Kind of Town

Don't be surprised if you run into Dave Cowens and hear him humming the tune Frank Sinatra made famous, "Chicago Is My Kind of Town." Dave has a lot of fond memories of the Windy City, especially All-Star games in Chicago.

In 1973, the first time an NBA All-Star game ever was played in Chicago Stadium, Cowens emerged as the game's Most Valuable Player, with a 15 point, 13 rebound effort, which led the East to a 104-84 victory. It was Dave's third season in the NBA.

Now, fifteen years later, with Chicago hosting its second NBA All-Star game, Cowens, who is spending most of his time these days trying to convince developers and politicians that the New England Sports Museum should be relocated in the Custom House in downtown Boston, returned to Chicago Stadium for the NBA's Legends game.

The contest was part of the NBA's All-Star weekend and Cowens was in the forefront once again, scoring the winning basket in a sudden-death overtime. It wasn't the feature event this time, but it was a nice touch for Cowens. It brought back a few memories.

It was fitting too that Cowens won the MVP award in Chicago Stadium in 1973 because he deserved the award the previous season in Los Angeles when he grabbed 20 rebounds and scored 14 points.

Quite frankly, Cowens was the game's MVP in the first vote, taken with five minutes remaining in the contest. The East had a comfortable lead at that time and the ballots distributed to the media at the start of the fourth period were collected and counted.

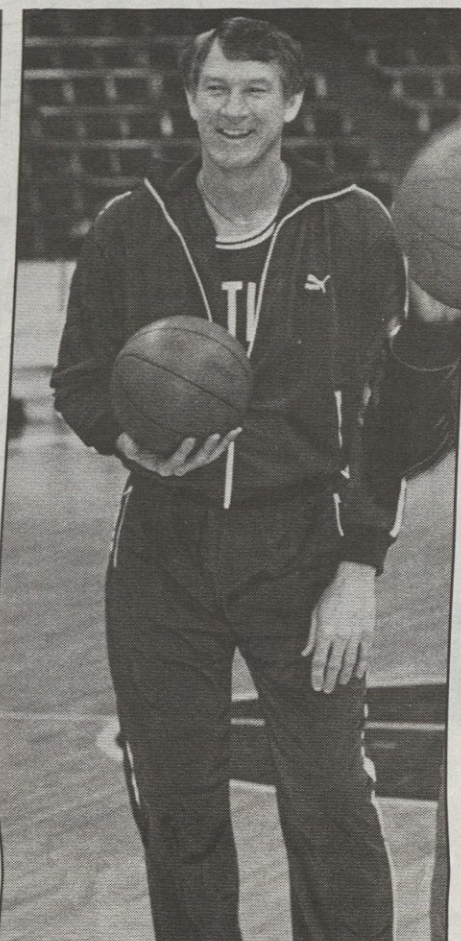
However the West squad rallied in the stretch and won the contest 112-110 on a jumper at the buzzer by Jerry West of the Lakers. League officials decided another vote should be taken because of the late heroics involving several players. West scored 13 points in the game.

In the second vote, with a heavy Los Angeles media contingent weighing in, West had no trouble topping Cowens in the count for the award. There were no protests because West was sensational in the clutch. But Cowens really earned the award, particularly since he had to battle Wilt Chamberlain and Nate Thurmond on the boards.

It was not the first time the home town favorite won the MVP award in the All-Star game. Michael Jordan became the 10th player in the 38 All-Star games to win the award on his home court.

Celtic center Ed Macauley won the award in the first All-Star game in 1951. Bob Cousy won his second MVP in the 1957 game at Boston Garden. St. Louis Hawks center Bob Pettit won three times,

COURTSIDE VIEW



John Havlicek: No MVP for 13 Years

twice in St. Louis (1958 and 1962). Wilt Chamberlain, then of the Philadelphia Warriors, won in Philly in 1960. Royals guard Adrian Smith was named MVP in the 1966 game in Cincinnati.

Rick Barry was MVP of the 1967 game in San Francisco, where he starred for the Warriors. West won it in LA in 1972, and Tom Chambers, playing before his home town fans in Seattle last year, captured the award.

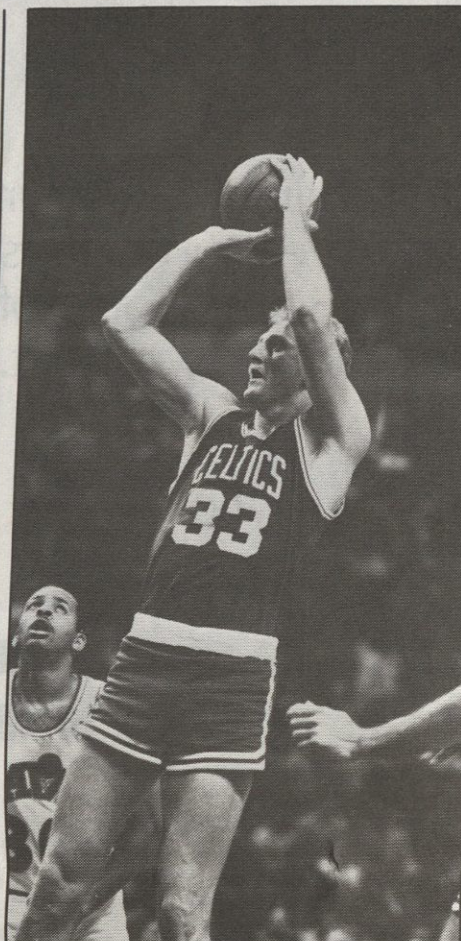
Another interesting note about the award is that only two players on the losing teams have ever won the award. They were Detroit's Bob Lanier in the 1974 game in Seattle and Philadelphia's Julius Erving in 1977 at Milwaukee.

John Havlicek, who scored a three-point basket in the Legends game in Chicago Stadium, never won an MVP award in 13 game appearances. His most productive effort was 26 points in the 1968 game in New York. Philadelphia's Hal Greer came off the bench to hit for 21 points and was named the MVP.

Hondo was close again in the voting the following year in Baltimore. He played 31 minutes in that contest, finishing with 14 points, seven rebounds, two assists and three steals. But Oscar Robertson, with 24 points, was voted the award.

Overall, the NBA All-Star weekend has become an unbelievable happening. The 38th game in Chicago attracted over 600 media people from around the country, but only 500 could be accommodated in Chicago Stadium. The others were assigned to a tent in the Stadium parking lot, from which they watched the Saturday events and the All-Star game on television.

Until the 1980s, the NBA All-Star weekend was just a gathering of the top



Larry Bird: Lock on 3-Pointers

players. They'd arrive in the host city on a Friday night, practice on Saturday, attend a two-hour banquet Saturday night and play the game Sunday.

Led by Miller Brewing Company, which sponsors the All-Star voting and the

game, the NBA has turned the weekend into a spectacular, with Converse, Gatorade, American Airlines and Schick included as corporate sponsors of various events. Everyone who is anyone in the NBA is there.

Next year's game will be played on February 12th in the Houston Astrodome, where they plan to set up 40,000 seats. Prior to the construction of the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, the Astrodome was the site of the largest crowd ever to watch the NBA in action. A crowd of 41,163 turned out for a double-header of Celtics-San Diego Rockets and Detroit-Cincinnati in 1969.

The Summit, the Rockets home arena, will be used for the Legends game, the Slam-Dunk contest and the Three-Point Shoot-Out on Saturday, February 11, the day before the All-Star Classic.

For sure, there will be a change in the format of the slam-dunk contest. The event in Chicago Stadium was a terribly boring affair. Also, there is a serious problem with the voting procedure.

Michael Jordan was spectacular as usual in his incredible flights to the basket, but a goodly number of the Chicagoans felt Dominique Wilkins deserved the award. It's a tough contest to judge, particularly on the home court of one of the stand-outs.

The contest rules should allow the gimmicks such as dunking two balls at the same time or even passing to set up alley-oop dunks. To assist the judges, there should be three or four "dunk" categories.

No need to change the three-point shoot-out as long as Larry Bird is around to make it interesting. The three-time winner did it in stunning fashion again, sinking his last three shots to edge out Seattle's Dale Ellis in the final round.

Bird was scorching in the second round, scoring 23 of a possible 30 points. He had 17 in the first and third rounds. The two points for the fifth ball—the red, white and blue ball—in each of the five baskets, provides the added excitement in the shootout.

SportsChannel Poster Presentation



Paul Freehauf (l.) and Mitchell Freund present posters to Celtics stars.

On January 13th at the Pistons/Celtics game, SportsChannel gave away 15,000 posters commemorating the Celtics Starting Five. Pictured above is a presentation to three of the starters by Paul Freehauf, Product Manager and Mitchell Freund, Vice President and General Manager.

SportsChannel broadcasts every Celtics home game except for those broadcast nationally. Their relationship with the Celtics is in its seventh year and their poster commemoration to the best starting five in basketball was received with excitement by all the fans at the game.

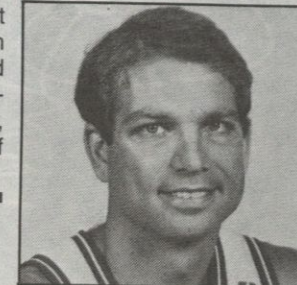
Poster photography was done by Steve Lipofsky and printing by Mark Burton Printers.

CELTICS PERSPECTIVE

Who Do You Respect? With Whom Would You Trade Places?

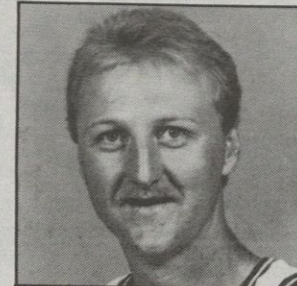
Who are the people that Celtics players and coaches respect? The question placed before the Celtics centered around people whom the players either knew or knew of, and commanded their respect. In some cases, enough admiration was expressed that the player would indeed trade places with that person. But the desire to trade often wasn't a consideration. These are the masters in their own profession. As one player put it, "I have everything I want. I wouldn't trade." Who do the players admire and respect enough to swap roles with?

Jerry Sichting: The major condition I would place on it would be that the man has to be outside of basketball. I'm satisfied with the development of my career. The guy I'd like to trade places with is Don Mattingly, the first baseman of the New York Yankees. He's a tremendous player, he has great pride in what he does and he makes a lot of money.



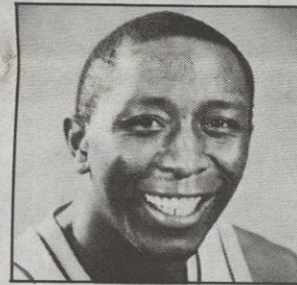
Jerry Sichting

Larry Bird: Two answers. Growing up, I had a tremendous amount of gratitude for my family, and my grandmother was a special influence on my development. She would take a lot of time with me, and it was often necessary for a guy who was pretty much an individualist. Now as a player I look for different sources of inspiration for my creativity. I wouldn't have minded being Bobby Orr when he played with the Bruins. He had a style about him that was very graceful and I admire that. But he also knew what it took to win as an athlete, and in our profession there's no other goal; winning as a team is pretty much everything. I would have liked to have been that great athlete back then.



Larry Bird

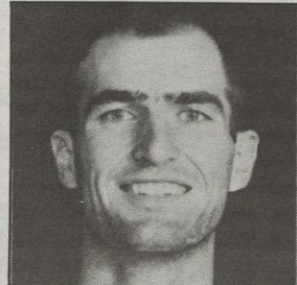
Dirk Minniefield: The one I'd trade places with would be comedian Bill Cosby. He's done an incredible amount for the human race, not only the black man. I think he has the type of humor that touches all people and that's something that brings people together. I can't think of a better quality than that one.



Dirk Minniefield

Fred Roberts: I really have to stand firm on the fact that I wouldn't trade places with anyone. I have a great life in professional basketball and I'm happy beyond words with my family.

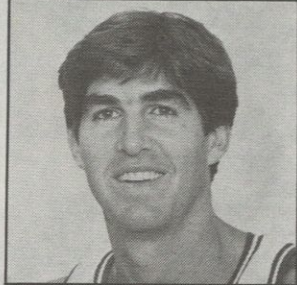
The person I respect the most in a visible profession is President Reagan. He has strong beliefs and sometimes, as President, those beliefs aren't always going to make him popular. But to me that's secondary. I respect him because he's absolutely forthright about his belief in God. People tend to laugh when he expresses that belief, but he earns my respect for saying that.



Fred Roberts

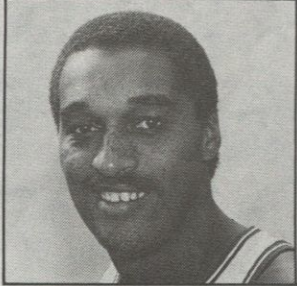
Mark Acres: I had to give it thought, but the one I came to respect most was Napoleon. I did a lot of traveling when I was playing in Europe and I kept coming back to Bonaparte. I really would have liked to trade places and experience the determination such a small man had to have had to hold such power.

He was a success. I respected the way he was a planner, a preparer and a man who paid strict attention to detail.

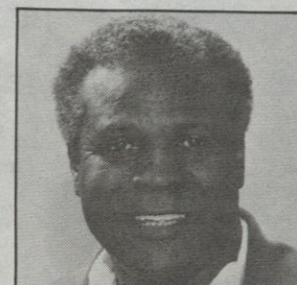


Mark Acres

Dennis Johnson: I have to say that I only would have wanted to trade places with someone when I was younger. I modeled my game somewhat after Walt Frazier who was with the New York Knicks when I was playing in California. But after I began developing my own game, I came to see that there were differences between us. I realized then that to try to emulate anybody from that point on was a mistake. But when I was younger, I would have traded places with him, to experience the thrills of playing in the major arenas and having the recognition he had.



Dennis Johnson

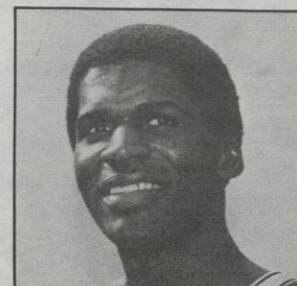


K.C. Jones

K.C. Jones: I'd have to answer the question in two very different ways. The person who was most respect-worthy for me was my Mom. She carried herself with such dignity and courage that I was immediately a better person for it. We never had it really easy as a family, but because of her we were never really wanting either, materially or spiritually.

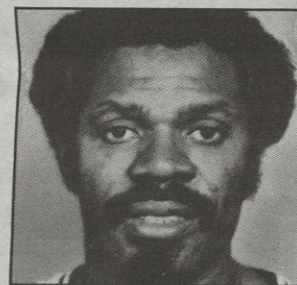
Trading places? Oh, there's no doubt that for me, singing and performing have always held a place close to my heart. If there were a singer I would trade with, it would probably be Frank Sinatra, because of his professionalism. People often don't realize the study he's put into singing—voice development, his work using the microphone for maximum effect in his recordings and concerts, particularly early in his career. The end result: a singer who commands the floor. I'd be delighted to experience that feeling.

Robert Parish: I'm not sure it would be wise to trade places. But I think Billy D. Williams is pretty much a commanding figure, enough so that I wouldn't mind trading places. He is cool, he has poise and an awareness of what he wants out of his relationships.



Robert Parish

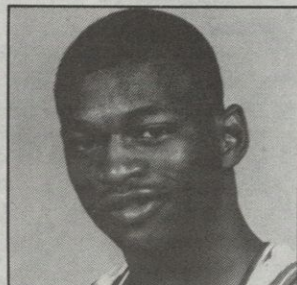
Artis Gilmore: I would have to say James Earl Jones, who is a tremendous character actor. I couldn't really point to any particular character he's portrayed on stage or in films, but what impresses me about the man is that he has an incredible list of accomplishments and he's been able to be productive over a number of years. He's maintained a very positive image throughout his career.



Artis Gilmore

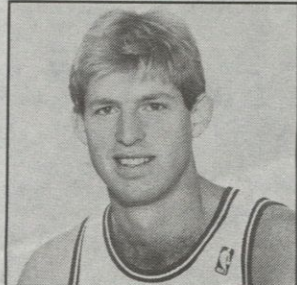
Reggie Lewis: There are two people. The person I respect the most is my Mom. She brought me up and helped to show me that there were very positive possibilities in life. I respect the way she carried herself in everyday life, the way she treated people and the fact that she is a very giving person.

In a public setting the man I would have liked to trade places with in an earlier time is Dr. Martin Luther King. He was trying to make the country come together and he was dealing with extremely sensitive racial issues. His dignity and courage are qualities I admire in a man.



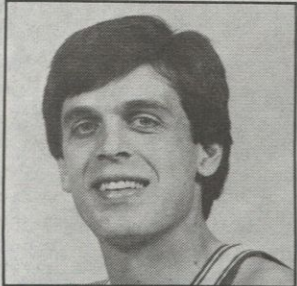
Reggie Lewis

Brad Lohaus: That's a very difficult question for me to answer. Most things about this season, for me, answered a dream. I have been happy; I have everything I want and I wouldn't trade. I did grow up admiring the Phoenix Suns and I attended Alvan Adams' basketball camp; he was an early model. If I did have to go out of my profession, I guess I would try to pick someone who had a series of challenges to overcome. Because I feel, as a rookie basketball player, I still have a mountain to climb. So it would be Harrison Ford, probably. Although his is a fantasy life, his film persona is something of an inspiration.



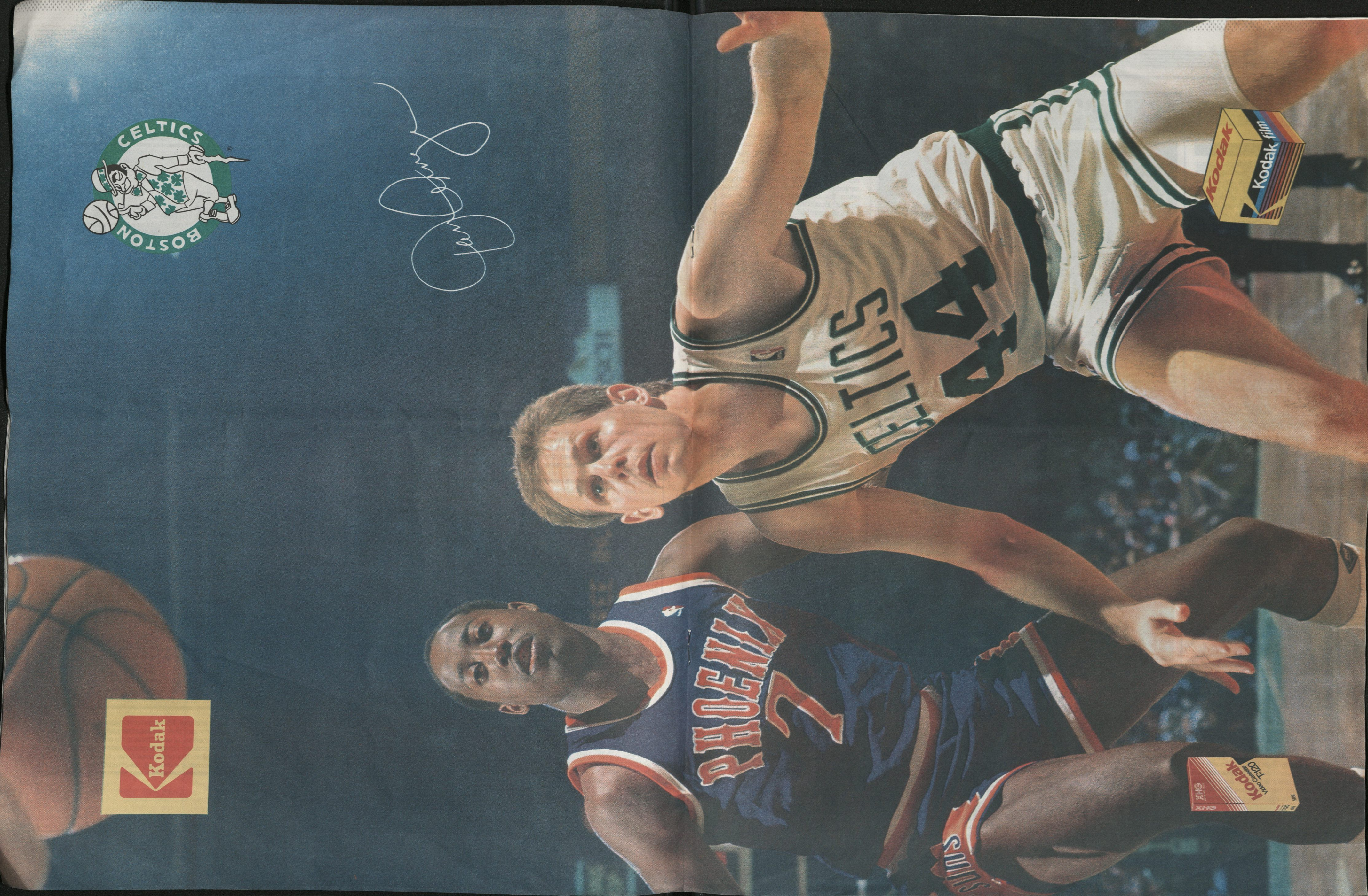
Brad Lohaus

Kevin McHale: For better or for worse, I'm satisfied. I can truthfully say that I believe very strongly that I have to make the best of what I have in life and go with it. In fiction, the character I'd trade places with would be Augustus McCray in *The Lonesome Dove*. A wild and sometimes unfathomable existence. If I could trade places.



Kevin McHale





Paul Pierce

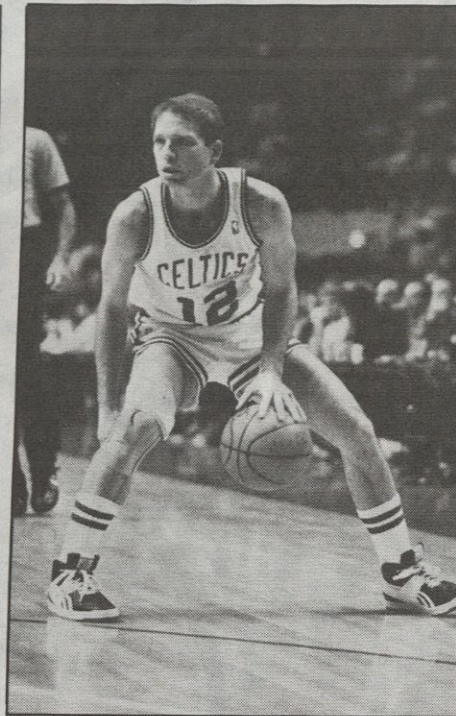


CELTICS CONFIDENTIAL

By Bob Schron

The firing of Philadelphia coach **Matt Goukas** verifies the opinion of the organization by at least three media types who were in Boston recently. According to *New York Daily News* columnist **Harvey Araton** "The difference between the Celtics and the 76ers is that the Celtics have always been more comfortable with their roles. In Philadelphia there was always a problem." . . . **Steve Fredericks**, of WCAU (and formerly in Boston with WEEI), felt that "the downfall of the team came when they traded **Moses Malone**. Not with the departure of Malone himself; rather, it was that the team gave up their two first round draft choices along with **Moses**." **Mike Bruton** of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* refused to think the deal that brought Mike Gminski to the 76ers would make any difference in the 76ers fortunes . . . the Sixers and the Celtics were once sports best rivalry, but since 1984 Boston has finished ahead of Philadelphia by margins of 5, 13 and 14 games.

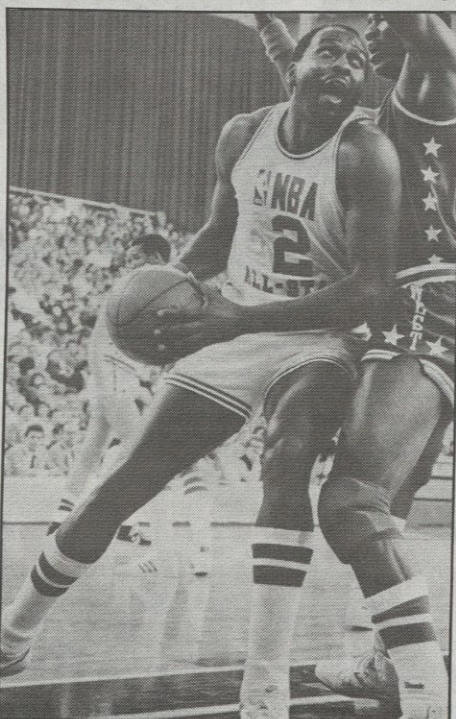
At the Garden. Faces in the crowd recently included **Philip Bailey** of Earth, Wind and Fire, **John Havlicek** and **Chris Havlicek** (John's son), **Dave Cowens**, **Steve Grogan**, quarterback of the New England Patriots, **Dwight Evans** of the Boston Red Sox, and former Celtic and *Celtics Pride* writer **M.L. Carr**. Carr's recent appearance in a ballet in Boston was featured at halftime of the CBS telecast of the contest between the Sixers and Celtics . . . Also: **Georgia Bird**, Larry's mother, was in Boston for the unveiling of the Larry Bird statue by sculptor **Armand LaMontagne**, along with **Gary Holland** and **Jim Jones**, Bird's high school coaches at Springs Valley High School in French Lick . . . **Frank Deford**, one of the finest writers in the business, was profiling Bird for *Sports Illustrated* during the week Bird's statue was unveiled . . . Bird and **Chuck Person**, the Pacers' outstanding young forward, had a long conversation before the Celtics-Pacers game February 3rd . . . **Dave Twardzik**, the Pacers' assistant coach on Person: "He's not having as good a year for us this season. Very inconsistent. I think he might have taken his press clippings a little too seriously, those that compared him to Bird. In your second and third years, you have to work extra hard to maintain that high level of play." . . . Deford on Bird: "Oh, I think he's the best player in the game, even better than **Magic Johnson**. Due to his instincts; he's a player who can dominate the game at his position. I don't know why he is able to stay so committed to the game. The great ones have a passion and there's no real sociological pattern. Look at **Jack Nicklaus**; he's from a very wealthy family and he stays great at golf." Asked to compare Bird with **Oscar Robertson**, Deford answered quickly, "Bird's much better; defensively, and as a scorer, and because of the fact that Oscar had to have the ball. Bird's ability to win games every possible way — and through hustle — make him the best player." . . . **Dr. Jack Ramsay** on **Kevin McHale**'s influence on a game: "He disrupts your defense completely. You have to make a commitment to double-team him, so you've made the commitment on that end. But you can't stop him that way because he gets his shot away so quickly." . . . **Jerry Sichting**,



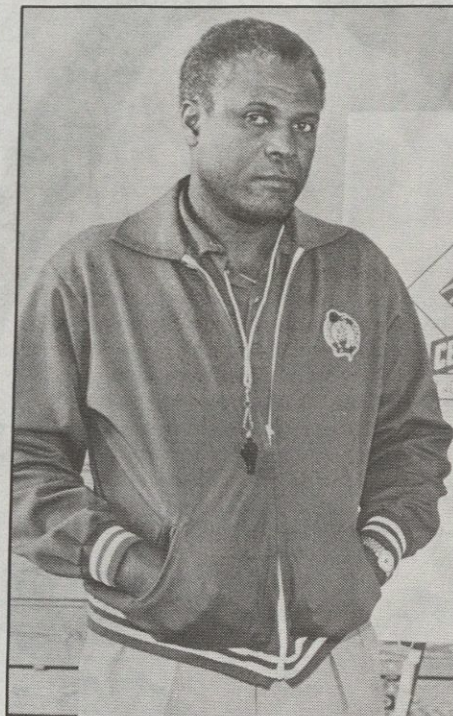
Jerry Sichting: Back Soon

although reporting that his injured knee was substantially better, remained in Boston during the team's February West Coast trip. "I had a meeting with **K.C. (Jones)**, and we just thought that it wouldn't be a good idea to go. There are hardly any practices because of the schedule, and I'd be traveling through seven cities with an opportunity to play only limited minutes." . . . **Red Auerbach** appeared with Professor **Robert Berry** of the Boston College Law School and Professor Glenn Wong of the University of Massachusetts at a panel discussion, "Ethics and Sports" at Brandeis University last week . . . Former Celtics assistant general manager and Kings' general manager **Jeff Cohen**, now Athletic Director of Brandeis, was the moderator . . .

Danny Ainge on his friend, **Greg Kite** and the latter's move to the Clippers. "I don't think Greg was surprised about being released," Ainge commented. "What hurt Greg was that the Celtics made a commitment from the beginning



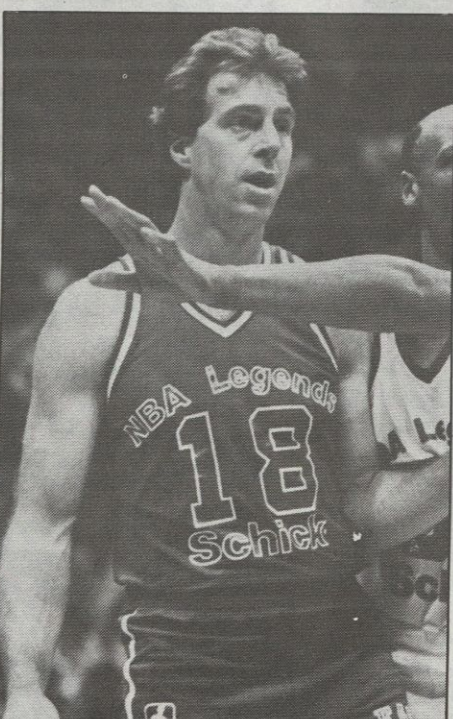
Moses Malone: Left a Hole in Philly



K.C. Jones: Enjoyed All-Star Game

of this season to go with other backup players (**Mark Acres**, **Brad Lohaus**). He thought with the injury to **Bill Walton** this might be the year he would really get an extended opportunity to play." **Fred Roberts** and his family were in New York during the long All-Star weekend . . . Because of the eight inches of snow overnight before the Celtics left for Milwaukee (before the break), equipment manager **Wayne Lebeaux** was forced to do some hasty rearranging of departure schedules. The team flew out to Chicago two hours earlier than originally planned; they then took a bus to Milwaukee and arrived at 2 P.M. . . . Little wonder they played a sluggish game in the 111-101 defeat by the Bucks . . .

Larry Bird's high school coach **Jim Jones** on Bird: "Three things I remember about Larry: First, he was a 6-1 skinny guy when he started out, but he could handle the ball expertly and he could play. Second, his competitiveness always set



Dave Cowens: Staggered by Salaries

him apart. Third, his personality made his team and him winners. Larry's such a giver and he has such a deep understanding of the game. That rubs off on his team. He made everybody around him better players." . . . **Garry Holland** coached Bird as a senior. Holland also played for Louisville when the Cardinals played in Boston against **Bob Cousy**'s Boston college Eagle team in 1967. "I idolized Bob Cousy when I was growing up and it was an unbelievable thrill to play against his team." The two were introduced during halftime of the Celtics-Pacers game . . . **Philip Bailey** on the similarities between a basketball team and a band: "They're similar. When the team and the band have it going, things are great. But if one part of it all breaks down, then everything can fall apart very quickly!" . . . Bailey (of EW&F) incidentally, is a Lakers fan (he lives in LA) and a Nuggets fan since he hails from Denver . . . The New England Sports Museum director of public relations, **Joe Dubrow**, assistant director **Carrie Devine** and researcher **Dick Johnson** were in attendance as the Celtics defeated the Pacers February 3rd.

Larry Bird was featured in a spot promoting the Dorchester Boys and Girls Club, (that's a town near Boston). . . . **Dave Cowens** on one of the realizations he's had about the current lives of basketball players: "Easy," he commented in an off-hand moment recently. "The salaries. I can't believe that players who go without scoring for months can pull in salaries approaching millions!" . . . the Celtics front office was closed during Presidents weekend . . . **K.C. and Ellen Jones** attended the All-Star Game Weekend in Chicago. Jones, on what he'd do during the weekend: "Spend money, probably. Take the wife shopping." Then he laughed, "The two go together, don't they?" . . . **K.C.** is very high on the coaching job Boston University's **Mike Jarvis** is doing with the Terriers. "Particularly his defensive approach," says K.C. Jarvis is the former Cambridge (MA) Ridge and Latin high school coach (of Patrick Ewing) . . . **Billy Packer**, CBS color man on the network's telecasts of college basketball, is one who thinks Georgetown's **John Thompson** may be overextending himself this season, trying to coach his very good Georgetown team and doubling as the 1988 Olympic men's basketball mentor . . .

The Black Entertainment Network's **Dave Reynolds** was in Boston shooting feeds for that network for features on **Dennis Johnson** and **Robert Parish** . . . Former Celtic **Cedric Maxwell** was in touch with former Houston Rocket **Dirk Minniefield** when the two planned to get together during the Celtics visit to Houston February 9th . . . Maxwell rarely plays now, as the Rockets have shuffled their team around. "He's OK," reports Minniefield, "although I think he fit better when the Rockets had **Ralph Sampson** playing effectively and there was a rotation set up." . . . Reportedly the Celtics were seriously considering a western power forward as a possible draft selection in the June college draft . . . Several years ago Boston expressed an off-the-record interest in **Herb Williams**, the very good power forward of the Pacers. **Kevin McHale** on Williams: "I always respected Herb, since the days when we played in the Big Ten. If we were to trade places, Herb would be an outstanding player in Boston."

GAME BY GAME

Boston 100 Philadelphia 85 January 31 at Boston Garden

The Celtics were never threatened as they defeated Philadelphia, who played without All-Star forward Charley Barkley. Forward Cliff Robinson of the 76ers also missed the game because of a back injury. Barkley sprained an ankle in the team's 119-109 overtime loss at home to the Bulls five days ago. After trying to loosen his ankle up in pre-game drills, he decided he couldn't play.

Boston won easily, frustrating the 76ers' attempt to slow the pace down. Larry Bird led the Celtics with 29 points, 17 rebounds 3 blocks and 1 steal. Kevin McHale had 26 points and 8 rebounds for Boston. Bird had 13 rebounds in the first half when the Celtics held the 76ers to 10 points in the second quarter.

The Celtics opened up a 76-53 lead heading into the fourth quarter and coasted. Philadelphia coach Matt Goukas, in his final week as Sixers' coach, tried to explain the defeat away philosophically: "We slowed the tempo down, but what made the game appear so lackluster was that we just weren't hitting our shots. Because we weren't hitting, our team lacked all confidence in the offense."

"It might have appeared boring," said Bird, "but that's because we get more ready to play if guys like Barkley and Robinson are out there." Danny Ainge added 16 points for Boston and Maurice Cheeks paced Philadelphia with 17 markers. Mike Gminski had a season-high 19 rebounds for the Sixers.

Boston 118 Indiana 103, February 3 at Boston Garden

Kevin McHale scored 27 points and Larry Bird and Danny Ainge 21 apiece as the Celtics defeated the Pacers for the 23rd consecutive time in the Garden. The last Pacers' victory against the Celtics in Boston came on April 2nd, 1978 when they defeated the Celtics 123-120.

The Pacers fought back from several large deficits in this game. But playing without the injured Chuck Person, Indiana failed to move any closer than 72-68 at the 7:16 mark of the third period after John Long hit the last of three consecutive outside jumpers.

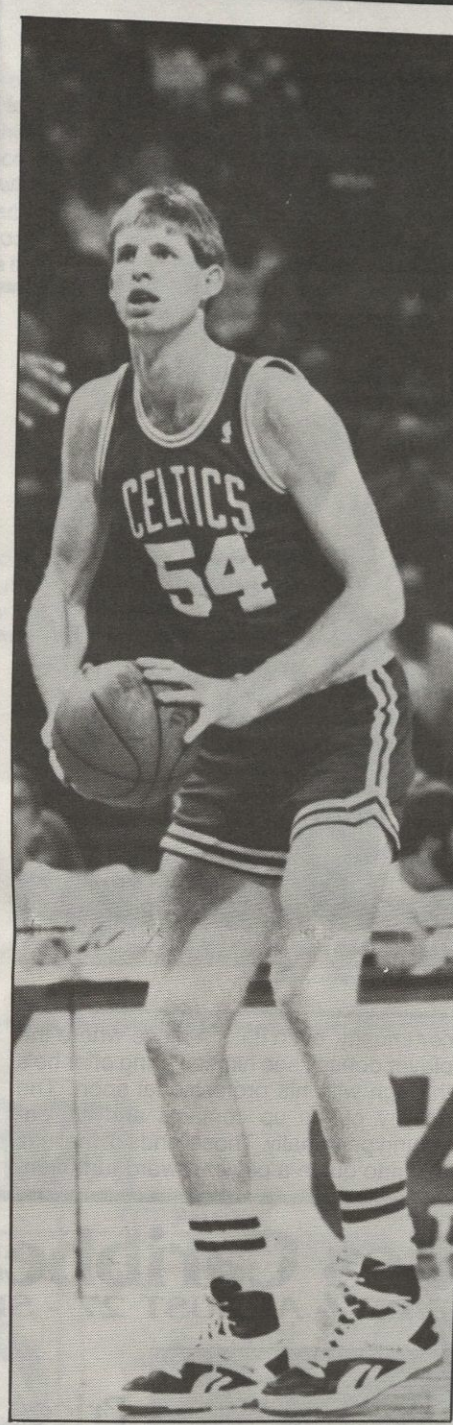
The Celtics received their best effort from rookie Brad Lohaus. The second round draft choice scored 12 points on 6 for 7 shooting and more importantly, according to K.C. Jones, he impressed with his defense. "That was the type of game I've been waiting for from Brad. Hustle on offense and the solid work on the defensive end."

The Celtics, who never trailed in the game, were led in rebounding by Robert Parish with 11. Dennis Johnson and Dirk Minniefield each had 10 assists. The Pacers' Vern Fleming had 18 points and Herb Williams 13 boards.

Milwaukee 111 Boston 101 February 4 at The Mecca

Terry Cummings had 30 points with 9 rebounds and 3 blocks and Jack Sikma added 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Bucks opened up a 62-50 halftime lead and made it stand up down the stretch. The Celtics, who trailed throughout, lost the first game of an eight-game Western road swing. It was the final game for the team before the five-day All-Star break.

Cummings paced the Bucks by registering 15 first-period markers, mostly on



Brad Lohaus: 6 for 7 in a Good Outing

his intimidating driving game. The Bucks led 33-25 after one, scoring on 11 of their last 12 possessions in the quarter. The Celtics fared better to begin the second quarter as the Green Team hustled their way back into the contest briefly at 37-35. Dirk Minniefield (10 points) and Mark

Acres (4 rebounds) led this rally but for the Celtics this attempt before halftime was short-lived. Larry Krystkowiak spurred a rally that gave the Bucks their halftime lead.

Boston's starters made a strong drive to win the game after halftime however. They charged within 72-69 behind Larry Bird's eight points and capped a 15-4 run when Robert Parish twisted in for a three-point drive. But Milwaukee steadied themselves and after Boston drew within 91-87 Sikma and Paul Pressey took charge. The Celtics made 12 turnovers in the game and allowed 9 Bucks steals.

Kevin McHale led the Celtics scoring with 25 points and Bird added 22 points with 12 rebounds. However Bird managed only 7 of 24 from the field. The Celtics had only two blocks and three steals in the game, as their road record fell to 13-10, second in the league behind the Lakers (15-6). The Celtics closed out the first half of the season at 32-13, also second in the circuit to the Lakers, who have the top mark at 35-8.

Houston 129 Boston 120 February 9 at the Summit

Akeem Olajuwon, Joe Barry Carroll and Eric "Sleepy" Floyd combined to lead the home-standing Rockets over the Celtics. The defeat was the second straight for the Celtics as they embarked on a critical Western road trip.

Boston began the game strongly, executing their offense and gaining early leads of 17-10 and 25-17. But in the second quarter the Rockets began running effectively. Olajuwon keyed the break and had 20 points at halftime as the rockets led, 67-60.

Boston would battle back, principally behind the spectacular play of Larry Bird. The Celtics edged in front at 81-80 as Bird connected on eight straight points in the period. However, despite Bird's offensive display and Danny Ainge's all-around efforts, Houston had control for the next fourteen minutes, extending late into the fourth quarter. Floyd was scoreless until late in the third stanza, but he notched ten clutch points late in the game, sending Houston to a 104-95 lead. Boston steadied itself and pulled within 117-113 and 125-121, but it was too late. In the final two minutes Carroll, Olajuwon and Purvis Short matched baskets with Bird, Robert Parish and Dennis Johnson and that was enough for the Rockets to win. Bird paced the Celtics with 46 points and 14 rebounds and Johnson paced the Cs with 9 assists. Olajuwon had 30 points and 16

rebounds as Houston out-rebounded the Celtics, 56-46.

Boston 136 San Antonio 120 February 10 at The HemisFair

Larry Bird scored 39 points en route to his first triple-double of the season and Dennis Johnson sparked a third period 13-0 run to propel the Celtics over the upset-minded Spurs. The Spurs led throughout the first half (with their largest advantage being 36-24) in this game, played before a sellout crowd of 15,770.

The Spurs shot out to a 38-31 first quarter lead and would remain in front by as many as 11 (60-49) late in the first half. But Boston rebounded in the closing minutes of the opening half and cut the lead to 72-68, mostly behind the outside sniping of Danny Ainge (14 points) and Kevin McHale (27 points).

The third quarter was the decisive time of the contest however, as Bird popped in 6-for-6, all from the outside and all with Mike Mitchell draped all over him (Spurs' Coach Bobby Weiss had started Alvin Robertson on Bird). Johnson then pushed his foot to the accelerator, hitting for seven points, making two steals and sending the Celts in front with a 3-point FG making the score 79-76. This came in the middle of the 13-0 run to place the Celts in front 83-76. Boston then utilized the quintet of Robert Parish-Brad Lohaus (5 blocked shots)-Bird-Johnson and Ainge to ice the contest. Bird finishing with 39 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, and Johnson with 12 assists, paced the visitors. Robertson led the Spurs with 32 points and 4 steals, and Johnny Dawkins had 20 points, 12 assists and 4 steals.

Celtics 105 Mavericks 104 January 13 at Reunion Arena

Larry Bird scored 39 points, including a 3-pointer with four seconds left, rallying the Celtics to a 105-104 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Dallas' Derek Harper missed a 3-pointer with a second left and Kevin McHale grabbed the rebound to secure Boston's 14th all-time win in 15 tries against the Mavs.

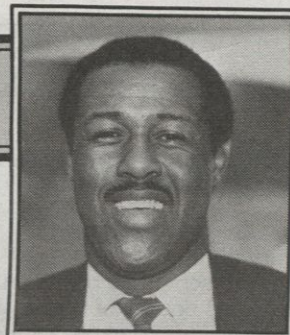
McHale had 20 points before a sellout crowd of 17,007 in Reunion Arena, while Mark Aguirre scored a season-high 38 points and Rolando Blackman added 20 for Dallas.

Dallas led 104-102 after Sam Perkins made one of two free throws with 10 seconds to go. The Celtics hurriedly inbounded the ball and found Bird at the top of the key. Bird hit the 25-footer cleanly.

Boston Celtics Statistics

Player	G	Min	Fg	Fga	Fg%	Flt	Fta	Flt%	Orb	Reb	Ass	Stl	To	Blk	Pts	Ppg
Bird	45	1725	510	963	.530	251	276	.909	55	426	279	77	139	34	1318	29.3
McHale	35	1280	301	497	.606	184	225	.818	87	291	77	16	76	55	786	22.5
Ainge	48	1822	297	621	.478	86	105	.819	36	156	289	69	95	10	773	16.1
Parish	49	1593	292	509	.574	129	181	.713	124	459	77	35	109	56	713	14.6
Johnson	26	1667	209	504	.415	173	198	.874	46	159	373	59	128	21	599	13.0
Roberts	42	630	101	211	.479	81	104	.779	41	101	49	9	44	9	283	6.7
Days	44	647	112	213	.526	59	87	.678	28	72	71	29	44	4	283	6.4
Lewis	35	316	65	148	.439	32	47	.681	20	45	20	11	25	13	162	4.6
Minniefield (Tot)	39	656	72	139	.518	29	42	.690	17	62	133	39	50	2	177	4.5
Sichting	24	370	44	82	.537	8	12	.667	5	21	60	14	14	0	96	4.1
Lohaus	39	425	64	134	.478	25	31	.806	31	91	28	14	35	32	154	3.9
Gilmore (Tot)	40	518	57	107	.533	32	64	.500	32	103	15	8	44	21	146	3.7
Acres	47	618	60	112	.536	33	55	.600	52	137	27	10	35	18	153	3.3

Three-point goals: Bird 47-118 (.398); Ainge 93-219 (.425); Johnson 8-28 (.286); Roberts 0-3 (.000); Days 0-1 (.000); Lewis 0-2 (.000); Minniefield 4-11 (.364); Sichting 2-8 (.250); Lohaus 1-5 (.200)



AS I SEE IT

By M.L. Carr

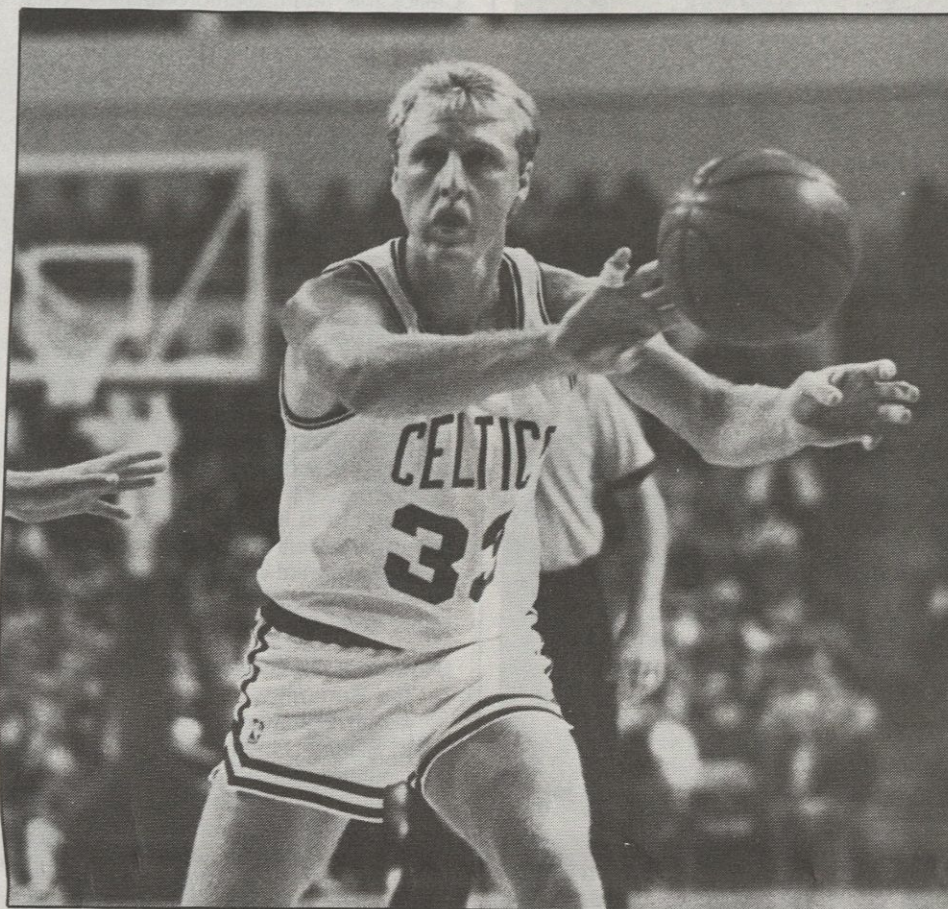
Midseason Challenges

It's midseason, and as the Celtics headed for the West Coast to confront a series of challenges, I began tackling some of my own. My business outside of Boston has begun expanding and it's something that has required an intensity very similar to that of the athlete's in basketball. The challenge for any retired athlete is finding an arena outside the game that can arouse your interest, discipline, dedication and commitment every day. Some have difficulties — I had some. The challenge is always there.

My interest in basketball remains strong. I scout for the Celtics and I follow the team closely. I think they've come together nicely during the first half of the season. They struggled when Kevin McHale and Larry Bird were out with injuries, but when those players returned, they regrouped. Sometimes the road can treat a team kindly in our game, but it's very demanding and it's a legitimate test. If a team is able to sustain its purpose and come out with intensity nightly, in each city, they can take the home crowd's support away. There is a professional advantage about being on a long road trip for a team as great as the Celtics. At home there are family responsibilities to attend to, or other business matters. Or ticket requests. But on the road, there's you and the game. If your team is on its way to success, often you find the correct road signs when you're on a trip like the Celtics' current one.

It's interesting; there are a number of parallels between what the game demands and what the business world demands after you're finished playing. You have to keep your attitude of perseverance about you at all times and be ready to take advantage of your opportunities. For some retired athletes there are problems. Some players are just unable to cope with the loss of excitement and have identity problems. Counseling is sometimes necessary. The answer to the question of what a player is to do after the game can be found, actually, while that player is finishing up his career. He has to look down the road, if at all possible. Some athletes are able to find a pathway to success by becoming active in union matters. Gene Upshaw was criticized this year for some of the stands he took when there was a football strike. But the bottom line was that he was out there in a highly responsible position and staying active professionally. He was growing.

I think of some of these matters as the basketball year reaches its midseason. For athletes, it's another midseason when they approach the ends of their careers. When I played, I began looking down the road as my skills declined. I had to! For my family, for my feeling of identity and self-worth. The involvement with the game is



Celtics Regroup Around Larry.

so consuming that a player is able to put the question of 'What do I want out of life besides basketball?' conveniently behind him for a long time.

There are ways to counteract that, I think. One way is to become active in the

community, even if it's a place where the player doesn't see himself living after he's through with his professional sport. The activity opens up contacts and it's enriching personally. Those kinds of feelings begin to guide a player toward further in-

terests. Another idea is becoming active in another profession during the off-season, (if the player doesn't have coaching aspirations). Again, contacts, interests and a familiarity with the way men and women think outside of the world of sports.

My strategy was to become highly active late in my career. I lined up media jobs with Channel Four here in Boston and benefitted tremendously from my work there with Bob Lobel. Then I became active in my sneaker company, New Balance. (That was a direct result of having been injured in 1981 while wearing my former sneaker). It helped in a number of ways. I participated in designing the shoe. I worked again on my work ethic to promote the new product. I drove many winter nights (checking the road signs) to places where we were trying to get the New Balance product off the ground. It was lonely sometimes and it was time I wanted to spend with my family. But it was something I felt I needed to do, in order to provide for the long term interests of the family.

In this space, I've written before of the difficulties surrounding the schedule at this time of year. The players are at the halfway point: there are the days and days of training camp and practice they've already put in, and yet, they have to play the rest of the regular season before the playoffs begin. As a player, especially a veteran, it's sometimes a severe challenge to get yourself up for some of these games (in March the games take on more meaning with playoff positions at stake).

I think the challenges continue in a parallel way after an athlete has concluded his career. In our company we are looking for ways to extend our market and make ourselves maximally effective. I think any retired athlete — there are so many successful ones in business, media and athletics! — has similar exciting challenges ahead of him after the games are through.

Boston Celtics Caribbean Cruise

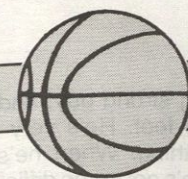
SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS — AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1988



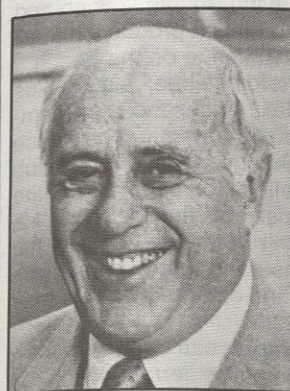
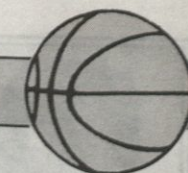
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ROUNDBALL SPOKEN HERE



Red Auerbach

Red Auerbach on Danny Ainge, the Boston guard who was an All-Star for the first time this season: "He's an athlete, see, a very good athlete. Right now I watch him in practice, and I think he's getting to be a lazy athlete. Not during games, but in practice. I really think he could work a little harder, plan a little better."

"I'm serious when I say this. When you reach a certain level — look at Larry Bird — people start reacting to what you do, and you have to come up with something else to stay on top of your game. To continually develop. You've got to go and make your own level one above it. He's got to start doing different things. But then, I'm never satisfied."

Larry Bird after the All-Star Long Distance Shoot-Out, was ribbing his fellow competitor in the contest, Danny Ainge. "I knew Danny would be out after the first round, so I didn't have to worry about him," joked Larry. "I felt sorry for him because he's been practicing for two months."



Larry Bird



K.C. Jones

K.C. Jones discusses the maturity of Larry Bird: "As the years go by, you seem to lose that vigor of youth, that recklessness of going after it. Not Larry. He's just like before, only maybe more. He still has that fascination with winning."

Mike Fratello Atlanta coach and also coach of the East in the East's 138-133 All-Star win over the West February 7th, comments on Larry Bird after coaching the Celtics star: "Michael Jordan (Game MVP with 40 points, 17-23 FGs) played well, Dominique Wilkins played well, but the thing which really impressed me was the way Larry Bird subjugated himself. Larry Bird showed me more today than most people could possibly have noticed. From the standpoint of a coach, you've got to love seeing a man do all he did — come up with a couple of key steals, get back on defense continually and break up about five fast-break opportunities. To me, he was like an overseer of the game. He saw what we needed, and acted accordingly."



Mike Fratello



MARCH

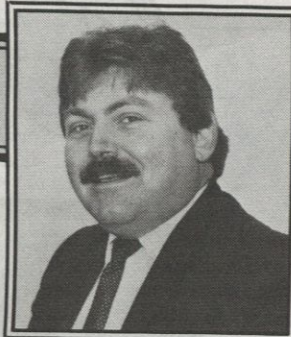
HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE...

Home Games

BOSTON CELTICS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MILWAUKEE BUCKS 8:00 WEEI-TV56 WEEI RADIO	2 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	3	4 LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	5
6 CLEVELAND CAVS NOON WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	7 	8	9 SAN ANTONIO SPURS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	10	11 At Hartford INDIANA PACERS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	12
13 ATLANTA HAWKS NOON SPORTSCHANNEL	14	15 INDIANA PACERS 7:30 WEEI RADIO WEEI-TV56	16 	17 	18 CHICAGO BULLS 8:30 WEEI RADIO WEEI-TV56	19
20 CHICAGO BULLS 1:00 WEEI RADIO SPORTSCHANNEL	21	22 	23 WASHINGTON BULLETS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTSCHANNEL	24 	25 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTSCHANNEL	26 NEW YORK KNICKS 8:30 WEEI RADIO WEEI-TV56
27	28 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30 WEEI RADIO WEEI-TV56	29 	30 HOUSTON ROCKETS 7:30 WEEI RADIO SPORTSCHANNEL	31		



By Glenn Ordway

Mid-Point Review

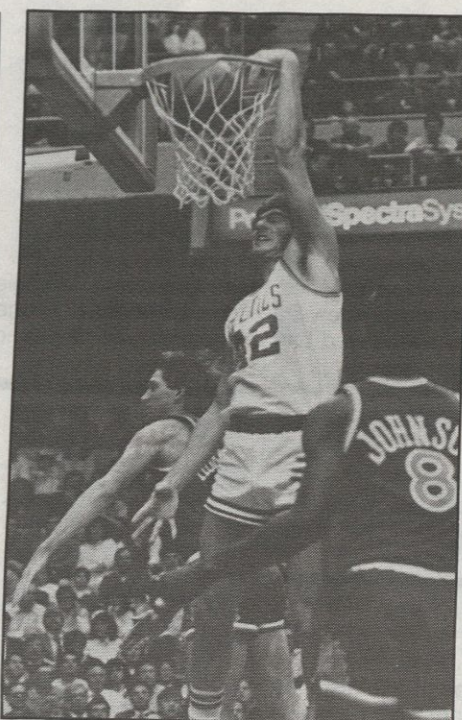
The first half obviously had its ups and downs. They've had periods when they've not played well on the road; there have been some games like Chicago, like Atlanta, where mentally they were ready for the ballgame and played extremely well on the road. They've developed major difficulty in not controlling the defense boards, not boxing out, giving teams too many second opportunities. They've had the turnover disease. I believe a lot of that is just because they're not concentrating. This is an intelligent basketball team that has just not played intelligent basketball. There are times when they get extremely sloppy on the other hand when the games have been there on the line we have seen this team come through. There's no reason to believe that when you get in a playoff situation this team is not going to play smart, intelligent basketball. The problem is, bad habits do create more bad habits. As far as the individual members of the team:

Larry Bird has had a phenomenal first half of the season. He has done everything Larry Bird does. The weight loss obviously has allowed him to do a little bit more. He's had nagging injuries, but nothing major that scares you in terms of the second half of the season. His back has been bothering him from time to time, but he is having a typical Larry Bird season.

Kevin McHale has been hurt for a good portion of the season, and I think that has messed up his rhythm. Kevin is getting somewhat healthy, except now he's had problems with his knee. Lately though he's been getting back to his scary self offensively. When he sets up in the low hole, he's getting all his moves back. He's impossible to stop in the pivot. I don't think he's been playing as well defensively as he did last year. He was named All-Defensive player in his position then. I don't think he's been playing the type of defense this year that he's capable of playing. Whether it's his leg, foot, or knee he's afraid to really set position. I also don't think he's rebounding as well as he's capable of doing. He's getting out-muscled. I think a lot of that though, is just taking time and getting some confidence in that foot. Maybe as time goes on we'll see the real Kevin McHale come back.

Dennis Johnson: Dennis Johnson hasn't had his best first half of the season. Let's face it, DJ is a year older. The thing that he still provides for this ball club, that they absolutely need, is his intelligent play in the game. He's a real good defensive player out there and he's a smart player; they need that composure that Johnson gives them. DJ has had a lot of injuries as well this year. He's had a nagging shoulder problem that I think is starting to affect his shot — it's something that's hurting

CALLING THE GAME



Mark Acres: Makes Things Happen

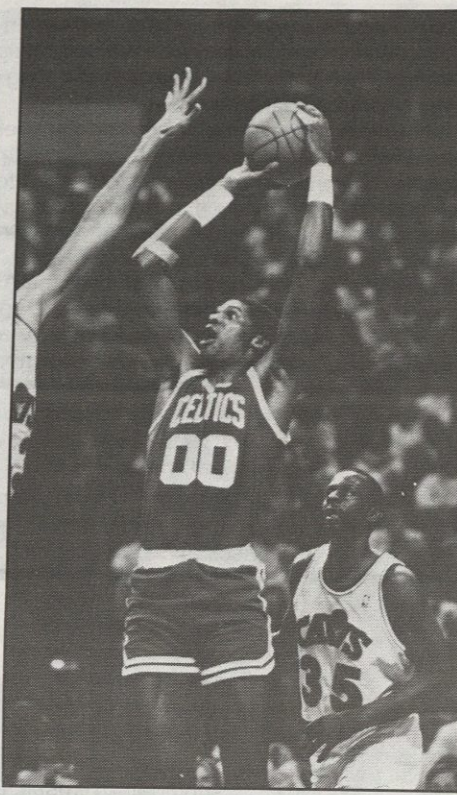
him a lot more than he's letting on. That's why his shooting seems to be off this year.

Danny Ainge has, of course, become the NBA's three-point king. I think it has a lot of positive effect on this ball club. What it does is give you that extra point, plus it loosens the defense up. His reputation is spreading across the NBA. The teams start to play him a lot differently — they have to come way out to the three-point line. Many times it's Danny's man who is the "doubler" guarding Kevin McHale or Larry Bird, so it's giving them more daylight. Danny has picked up a lot of his three's off the transition. The only thing that scares me is that sometimes we're not in position to rebound when he misses. This is known as the "Oh-No" play. In other words, when Danny comes down and shoots the three in transition, the coach first goes "Oh, no!" then the ball goes through the basket and everyone's happy again. I think it would be a mistake to stop him from shooting them.

Robert Parish has played a lot better than people have given him credit for. I think not selecting Robert for the All-Star Team was a mistake — he's been playing very well. It's just that he's had these ups and downs. A lot of times that happens when a player won't tell you that he's slightly injured. Robert's pretty quiet when he's hurt. He's had periods when he's played very well, and others when he hasn't. I don't really know what to attribute that to; I don't think that playing time has had that much to do with it. At least when you talk with Robert he claims it doesn't. But they really need to have Robert Parish; he's a very important cog in the Celtics' machine.

Mark Acres has done everything he could to help fill the center position when Robert's resting. He's a very active kid out there who seems to make a lot of things happen. Mark's problem is that he's not as big as he seems. He gets pushed around a lot out there. And at only 6'10" it's tough for him to score.

Artis Gilmore has not looked good at all. I think we have to wonder right now whether Artis can be a contributor to the



Robert: Should Have Made All-Stars



"D.J. dribbles to the top of the key. He's fiddlin' and diddlin' to the outside!"

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team. He's a big strong guy, and yet he can't get off his feet. He's very slow in reacting to anything. When he's in the running game he's got some difficulties — he's much better in a set-up kind of offense. He's having trouble scoring and they're not getting much production at all from him when Parish is on the bench.

Dirk Minniefield has been a huge plus for this team. He changes the entire tempo of the game. He runs a good offense out there and changes what our ball club is doing. Minniefield has been, so far, the pleasant surprise of the season. He makes the team run and he can play the pressure defense and forces some turnovers and gets the other team out of their rhythm.

Jerry Sichting I can't tell you how much I think they miss Jerry Sichting out there. His shot is so consistent that he's a constant danger to the opponent. There's no one that the Celtics have right now coming off the bench who can provide that instant offense.

What the Celtics need right now, surprisingly enough, is a "banger". It used to be they would come out and beat their teams with good halfcourt physical play. Right now we're missing that ingredient.

I personally think that we may see Bill Walton before the playoffs begin. He's been running and appears healthy. He's exactly what the Celtics could use. Someone who can go in, pull down a few rebounds and give some good defensive minutes. Let's cross our fingers.

JOHNNY MOST'S DREAM GAME SPORTS CASSETTE



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It's Not Just Ice Buckets, Aspirin and Towels Any More

Ed Lacerte: New Head Trainer

By Jan Wrotnowski

What stands out most when speaking with Ed Lacerte is his calm, clear, accepting view of things. But don't misunderstand; he's definitely a goal-oriented, assertive, determined individual. He just doesn't get involved in banging his head against walls, in trying to force things to happen. Instead he operates with the belief that if you work hard toward your own clearly-defined objectives, preparing yourself for almost any conceivable situation, you'll probably get where you want to go. He seems to possess the necessary faith in himself and in life that ultimately allows him to let go, to let things be, to trust, knowing that what happens *is*, as it should be. And what's happened now is that Ed Lacerte is probably right where he should be, working with the Boston Celtics as their new Head Athletic Trainer.

Ed Lacerte is one of those people who's known what he wanted to do with his life practically forever (well, anyway since he was 14). Throughout his high school years at Central Catholic in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he made steady progress toward his goal of being an athletic trainer. With four years' experience as a student-trainer and appropriate summer and correspondence courses under his belt, Ed was already well on his way to obtaining dual credentials in both Athletic Training and Physical Therapy when he entered Boston University for his undergraduate degree.

With B.S. in hand, Ed worked as head trainer for B.U.'s hockey and football teams from 1982-85. Then from '85 until accepting the position with the Celtics, Lacerte was in private practice, obtaining an M.S. in education along the way. And now, well into his first season with the Celtics, you'd have to say that everything seems to be right on schedule for Ed Lacerte.

We chatted with Ed on the night he and his wife Maureen (a pre-school Special Education teacher) had brought home their new daughter, Taylor Rose. (she joins her big brother, 2-year-old Devin.) While Ed spoke with us, he was also tending to Taylor in her cradle.

Athletic training has changed greatly over the last 10-15 years. It's no longer just ice buckets and aspirin and hanging around the team. Athletic training is a true allied health profession, one requiring specific coursework and licensing. The athletic trainer now is a member of a sports medicine team, a team which can include a wide variety of health-care professionals (physicians of various specialties, physical therapists, nutritionists, strength and conditioning coaches, sports psychologists, etc.).

But, specifically what does an athletic trainer do nowadays? Of course, he's still involved in the usual tapings and treatments. For example, as of this writing, before a team workout, Lacerte can be found mobilizing and stretching Larry Bird's ankles and back. Or he'll be assisting Jerry Sichting with his recovery from recent knee surgery. And of course, he's always available to help anyone else with their own pre-play routine. After a game there's lots of icing down to be done, and any injuries that may have occurred,



Ed Lacerte: Health is Top Priority

naturally are taken care of promptly.

Typical, run-of-the-mill stuff, right? True, but there is one big difference underlying all of this. And that difference can be found in Ed Lacerte's overall approach to his work. That approach definitely is not one of the "Band-Aid" variety. Sure, Lacerte has to deal with injuries as they happen. But his outlook is a much broader one, revolving around a philosophy of prevention rather than one involving only after-the-fact reactions to mishaps. And so with an eye toward injury prevention, one of Lacerte's present goals is to help design and oversee individual strength and conditioning programs and weight training regimens, to be used by the Celtics year-round.

Lacerte has found dealing with professional athletes quite a bit different from handling high school and college amateurs: "It's the maturity level. The Celtics have a knowledge of their bodies and an understanding of what should be done. At times that can make it easy. And they're a lot more independent at this level, so you don't tell them what to do; instead you try to discuss it with them and convince them (about a course of treatment). They're coming from a much wider experience. And they're adults."

And of course, a trainer can't help but get pretty close to his team, though Ed feels a necessary distance must always be maintained. "I've never tried to be buddy-buddy with them (the players). I try to be friendly and treat them as individuals. Of course, you can't help but develop a close rapport with them (the players). But you don't want to let that friendship interfere with the decisions you have to make. You're dealing with the individual, and you try to protect that individual from injury, but again it's all within a team concept."

Of course, working on the professional level means lots of travel, travel that involves lots of work and little time for sight-seeing. But as of yet, Lacerte has not had to take on the additional responsibilities of traveling secretary, as most NBA trainers do. During his period of adjustment, Wayne LeBeaux has been shouldering these burdens, but as Ed says, "What the future holds, I don't know." Since the trainer is a team's only medical person travelling with them on the road, sometimes the

addition of such separate and distinct duties may cause more than a few headaches. And, at times, one job has to suffer in order that the responsibilities of the other be met. Obviously, the health and well-being of the athletes always takes precedence.

Truly, Ed and Maureen Lacerte are excited about where they are now: new job, new baby, new friends, new challenges. And of course, the Celtics are one of Ed's top priorities at this moment. But everyone needs long-term goals to strive for, to keep you going, even after it seems you've reached the top. And naturally, Ed Lacerte, balanced and directed as always, has his long-term goals in place. As he says, "It's still a goal of mine to be a trainer at the Olympics. Right now I'll probably have to put a hold on that for a couple of years, or until the year 2000 or so, but it still is a goal." And in surveying Ed Lacerte's career to date, you just have to believe that his own Olympic dreams are well within his reach.

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2. Black-and-white and color photographs are eligible.
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4. Photographs must have a sports-oriented theme. They do not necessarily have to be basketball related.
5. Any number of photographs may be entered. Contestants name, address and telephone number(s) must be written clearly on the back of each print and/or accompanied with each slide. Mail or hand deliver your entries to:

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c/o The Boston Celtics
150 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

6. Entries will not be accepted after March 1, 1988.
7. Pictures will be available for pick-up at the above address until April 1, 1988. ALL UNCLAIMED PICTURES WILL NOT BE RETAINED.
8. A total of 5-first, 5-second and 5-third place finishers will be selected. One set of winners will be selected each month beginning Nov. 1, 1987.
9. Neither Kodak or Celtics Pride will be responsible for transportation to or from games to be photographed.



INNERVIEW

Johnny Most Shares His Views on Myriad Subjects

High Above Courtside



Johnny Most: Senior Statesman

"The Green Team has been holding its own lately. This will allow the starters to have plenty of gas left for the last ten minutes of the game."
... Johnny Most

CELTICS PRIDE: What are your thoughts about the Celtics' opponents this year?

MOST: Well, I think the Lakers are a great ballclub. They're starting to jell for another run to the championships. I think the loss suffered by the Celtics early in the season to the Lakers at the Garden will be a springboard for both clubs to go on and provide the fans with another superlative effort this season. When you look back, both teams have gone on to playing well and having successful season. The other

do know that with all these young legs, the Celtics may present a little more of a problem to this Pistons this year. Particularly when the starters won't have to conserve their energy as much as they did last year. This will allow them to play that real hard-nosed offense and defense necessary to win in the playoffs.

CELTICS PRIDE: What are your thoughts about the Celtics-Pistons rivalry?

MOST: Well, I don't think the feud that seemed to develop that year is going to end. It may be quieter and not as publicized as it was, but I think the undercurrents still exist. I hope I'm wrong, but where there's smoke there's fire. I do want to stress the fact that I hope I'm wrong, I really do. But even though the apologies were made, from Isiah to Bird, and even though the publicity wasn't there at the start of the season, there still might be a lot of animosity left between these two ballclubs. I wonder...

CELTICS PRIDE: What is it about basketball that gives the home team such an advantage nowadays?

MOST: A few things, primarily that the whole league is getting very, very aggressive. This tends to incite the home team fans and can weaken the aggressive nature of the visiting teams. Fans and the aggressiveness of home teams are taking the visiting teams out of the ball game. This crowd pressure may also be affecting the referees as well. It's only natural for the crowd to watch over their "darlings." So, I think it would only be natural for the referees to be somewhat affected.

CELTICS PRIDE: How do you feel about the new Celtics' performances?

MOST: It all depends on two things in regard to the rookies. First, how well they perform when they do get into a game, and second, how they look in practice, which is something I'm not sure about. For the Boston Celtics, the practice sessions mean a lot. From what I hear, Reggie Lewis can play the pro game, and should be getting more minutes; Mark Acres is already getting a lot of minutes, and I think this will result in even more minutes and also more polish to his already aggressive game. Acres is giving Robert time to rest a little, because he's giving the Celtics quality time. He's such a bearcat on the boards, he's a tremendous rebounder. I personally am very, very high on Brad Lohaus as well. This kid has shown me the right kind of aggressiveness by the way he rips rebounds out of the air. That reminded me a great deal of Dave Cowens. Additionally, he can shoot from the outside as well as run like a deer. All he has to do is raise the sophistication of his game. He just has to put his attributes together and raise the level of his game. He's a little out of control at times, but once he polishes his game a little, he'll end up with a lot of minutes. He's definitely a good prospect. Dirk Minniefield has looked real sharp; I don't know what effect he's having on his coaches, and they're the ones who have to tell the story, but Dirk looks like a "keeper" to me.

team getting a lot of ink is the Detroit Pistons, but I think their true colors show when they play away from the Silverdome. They had a lot of home dates early on and consequently they have a lot of away games left to play. This will be their true test.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you think the Pistons are any different from last year's club?

MOST: I don't know about the Pistons' club changing that much from last year. I

GREENSLEEVES



By John Freeman

New Life in Boston

Everywhere he goes in Boston, the fast pace has one 7-foot, 235-pound Celtics rookie frazzled. Or, in the words of Dorothy, as she set foot into the land of Oz: "Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas any more."

Well, Brad Lohaus knows he's not in Iowa any more.

"Life in Boston is just crazy," said Lohaus, who spent four years at the University of Iowa after leaving Phoenix, where he grew up.

"I mean, there's five times as many people as there should be in Boston. The place is packed. You can't go anywhere without running into a traffic jam. It's really unbelievable. I don't think I'll ever adjust to it."

Not that Lohaus, a second-round draft choice who has seen limited playing time behind Robert Parish, dislikes being a Celtic or being in the NBA. Quite the contrary.

"This is the greatest lifestyle anybody could have," said Lohaus. "You meet famous, interesting people every day, and compete against some of the world's

greatest athletes. You fly first-class, stay in the best hotels. And the money doesn't hurt things."

One problem, however. Just after the NBA season's midway point, Lohaus found himself in San Antonio on one of the Celtics' Texas road swings. He was exhausted, but not from playing, "because I hardly got into the (previous night's) game."

Jet lag, a common malady, had brought him to his knees.

"It takes a toll on me," he said. "I don't think I've adjusted yet, but I'm trying to sleep whenever I can. I just don't get enough hours of sleep. I don't know how guys like Larry (Bird) and Kevin (McHale) do it, night after night."

Lohaus may sag from jet lag, but not when he's operating one of his remote-controlled model airplanes, one of his passions away from basketball.

"I got into it about four years ago with my father-in-law, who used to be a pilot in the Air Force," said Lohaus. Cost of the three planes he owns is steep, between \$300 and \$2,500 each.

"I'd love to be a pilot some day," he said, "and this is the next best thing. Flying is something that has always fascinated me, ever since I was a little kid."

Lohaus plans to earn a pilot's license in a coming off-season, but for now, he'll stick with the toy models.

Dogs also fascinate Lohaus, show dogs, the kinds that owners enter in competitions. He owns two young Labrador retrievers — named Onyx and Apollo,

both purebreds.

Why would anyone want to raise show dogs?

"It's like having an original Rolls Royce," said Lohaus, who says he videotapes the annual Westminster Dog show from New York's Madison Square Garden.

"A mutt, you don't know where he's coming from. The kennels have really strict standards for breeding."

But, he admits, perfection isn't always possible in dog breeding.

"You're always taking a chance," he said. "If you have a good blood line, chances are 80 percent that you'll get a good show dog. Things like teeth, coat, head shape, overall body relationship, the tail, the gait, the dog's demeanor, its personality... the owner's personality... it all counts."

The owner must appear to be friendly, says Lohaus, an amiable fellow himself.

"If you act like a Hitler-type, you don't go anywhere at a dog show," he said. "You have to show some life. The judges have to like you, too."

What Lohaus enjoys most about showing and breeding dogs is that it provides him with an escape from basketball.

"Most of the people I run into (at dog shows), wouldn't know or even care what I do for a living," he said. "I like that part of it."

Being 7-0 does carry its down side, despite Lohaus' budding pro career.

"I was always taller than everyone else, so people expected more of me," said Lohaus, who spent his early childhood in the small Minnesota town of New Ulm before his family moved to Phoenix. "It seemed I couldn't do anything without people criticizing me."

"People expected me to be better, smarter... everything. But all in all, I think I handled it well."

Baseball was his main sport until he entered high school. "I was probably a better baseball player than basketball," said Lohaus, who was a pitcher and first baseman "with a mean stretch."

But not a mean streak.

All-Star Weekend

Celtics Deal Out Exciting Performances

The All-Star weekend was undoubtedly Michael Jordan's showcase. Beginning with the stirring Slam-Dunk Competition on Saturday, and ending with equal verve in Sunday's game, Michael Jordan answered the NBA's call to glory. Even if the hardened critics are still not convinced of Jordan's dominance in the Slam-Dunk Competition, no one could doubt that this outstanding athlete was the MVP of the game on Sunday. With 40 points, 8 rebounds, 4 blocked shots as well as 3 assists, Michael put on one of the best shows in years.

Jordan was very gracious after the contest on Sunday, citing his teammates for his success. "It seemed like all the players were paying me a hometown tribute (by passing the ball)," said Jordan. "That makes me feel great. I think I would probably do the same for somebody else. It's nice to have that kind of gratitude from your peers."

Michael keyed the East's victory in the game by scoring 16 points in the final five minutes of the contest.

Although his performance was less spectacular, many observers saw Larry Bird's stamp on this game as well. While everyone's flying around trying impossible passes and showtime dunks, someone has to assign himself to the "dirty" work. Larry Bird volunteered for the role, pulling down key rebounds and hustling back on defense, setting up plays for others. All along it was obvious that Michael Jordan was Larry's choice for MVP as well. "I like to see players from the host city do well, so I'll get the ball to Michael," said Bird before the game. "It's only fair for him to play the most and take the most shots. I'm content to just blend in and then go for the win in the end... as long as I get my \$12,500 the day before."

Larry of course, was referring to the Long Distance Shoot-Out, which he naturally won for the third straight year. This is a contest that may have to be renamed in Bird's honor after he retires. Larry owns this event and really isn't

afraid to let his teammates know about it. When asked if he was disappointed in ex-Celtic Gerald Henderson's absence at the event, Bird responded, "Gerald's like the rest of the guys — he wouldn't have had a chance anyway."

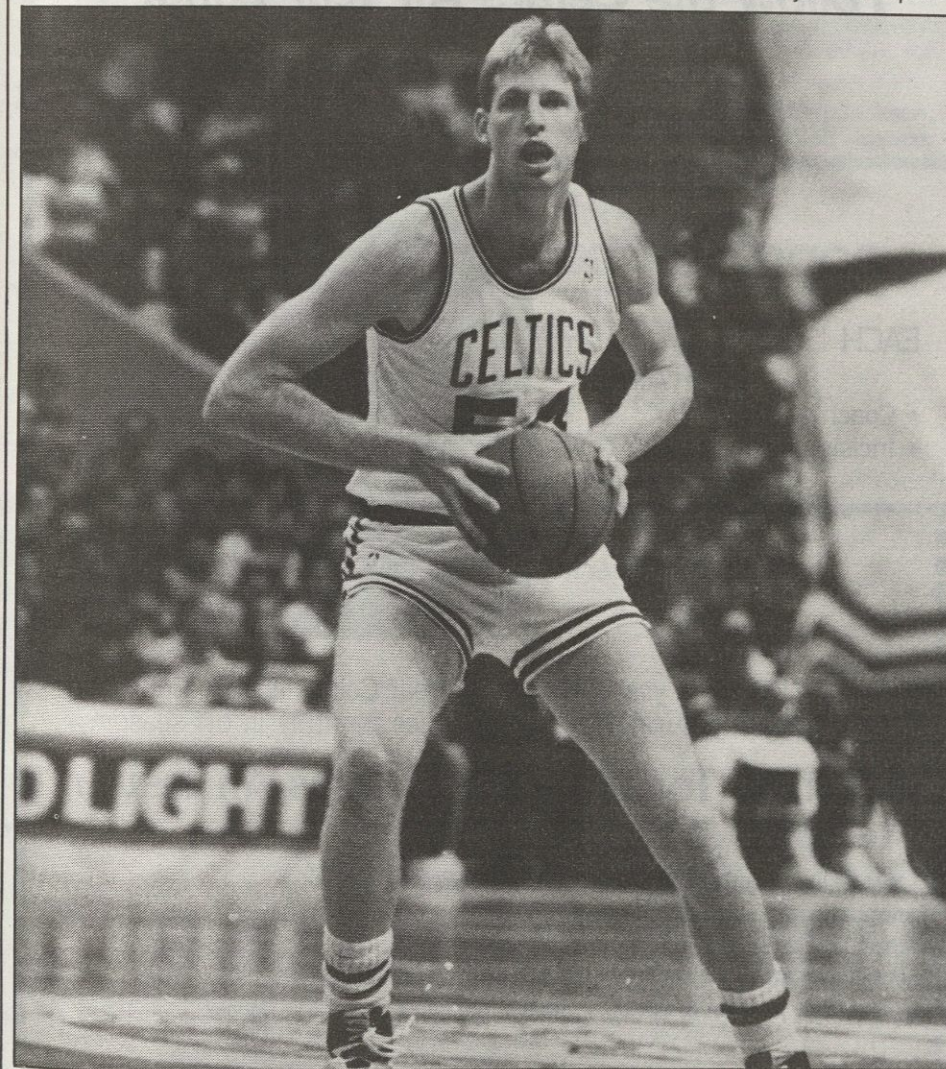
Larry's right, no one seems to have the wherewithal to beat him in this one. One-on-one, Larry's the best three-point shooter in the land. Three years ago it was Craig Hodges, two years ago it was Detlef Schrempf, this year it was Dale Ellis, beaten on the final shot and by Larry's force of will.

Larry did receive a little help from Kevin McHale, however, when he helped adjust the seams on the balls while in the racks, so that Larry could just grab and shoot. When asked jokingly whether Larry tipped Kevin for his services, Larry replied, "No, I just told him thanks."

There was also a lot of gentle ribbing at Danny Ainge's expense, as the current three-point wiz had a lot of trouble getting into the later rounds of the contest. Danny made up for his failure the next day by scoring 12 points in his first All-Star game. This also marked the event for the Celtics starters, all of whom have been in the game at one time or another.

Dave Cowens and Bob Cousy also kept the world's attention on the Celtics during the Legends Classic. Bob coached the Eastern stars, including Dave Cowens, who once again emerged a hero in Chicago. As the All-Star MVP of '73 Dave came back to haunt his compatriots by tipping in the winning basket during sudden death overtime in the Legends game. Many exhausted members of the West squad rushed to congratulate him, and also to thank him for a mercifully quick ending to the game. Bob Cousy later said, "I thought it was a coach's victory all the way. We put this together and followed the script all the way." Tongue planted firmly in cheek.

A great weekend was obviously had by all, and if this one followed a script, it couldn't have been any better for Michael Jordan.



Brad Lohaus: One Tall 1st Baseman



THE BEST DAY THEY EVER HAD

Dirk Minniefield's MVP Performance in Southeastern Tournament

Dirk Minniefield is a player who has continually understood the importance of playing in a traditional setting. "I can't say enough about playing with the Celtics. Every time I walk into the Garden I'm awed by the championship banners, the feeling that goes with playing on the parquet floor."

"I had a similar feeling when I'd play at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky with the University of Kentucky. I think it's probably more important for a younger player, but when the team would run out onto the floor and the cheerleaders would be out there and the crowd would start getting to its feet and cheering, well, there was nothing like that."

"There's a winning legacy that goes along with playing for a team like Kentucky. You have a responsibility to try and get the job done when you're out there and wearing the blue and white of the Wildcats."

According to Minniefield, the highlight of his college career qualifies as his best day. "You see, things have a deep meaning to college kids. I grew up in Kentucky and I was debating for a while whether to play at Louisville or Kentucky. The teams hadn't played for twenty years, until my senior season when we were in the same bracket of the NCAA Tournament (1982-83). We lost that game in overtime, to Rodney McCray, Charles Jones and Jerry Eaves. That game was in Knoxville and it was one of the most exciting moments of my career. Because it was so historical. "But I'd have to point to the Southeast-

ern Conference Tournament in my junior season. We had a real strong team that year also. We had Mel Turpin, who was an outstanding collegiate offensive center and we worked around the injury factor that affected Sam Bowie. We depended on a strong offensive system as instituted by Coach Joe B. Hall. But most of all, we depended on our ability to find ways to win. You see, that was before the shot clock was set up in the college game. We'd often dominate teams in the SEC, especially when we were at home. So what they would do a lot would be to slow down the tempo. That was the case all around college basketball." (A notorious instance of this was the nationally televised contest between Michael Jordan and North Carolina and Ralph Sampson of the University of Virginia for the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament. The game resulted in an eleven minute slow-down by North Carolina, a 47-45 yawner and the impetus for change in the college game.)

Dirk Minniefield's greatest day was the post-season tournament of the Southeastern Conference that same season. The final was held in Rupp Arena, and that gave Minniefield's exciting performance in the event special meaning for the player. Throughout the three-day championship round, the games were closely contested. Increasingly, as they headed into the final games, the tempo slowed, "because the coaches thought each possession was a crucial one," Minniefield recalled last week.

There were a number of outstanding coaches in the tournament. C.M. Newton

of Alabama, Don Devoe of Tennessee, Hall of Kentucky and Bob Boyd of Mississippi State. The games were close throughout.

In the opening round, Kentucky blazed past Auburn, 89-66 as Minniefield paced the attack with 18 points and 9 assists. "We didn't have any problems with them," he said. "The crowd was behind us, of course, and we were very loose." The best players in the tournament included Dale Ellis of Tennessee and Bobby Lee Hurt of Alabama. "Those were the guys we had our eyes on."

The teams went into the semifinal and played the University of Mississippi. The Bulldogs immediately controlled the tempo of the game until the closing moments, when again, Minniefield contributed to the win. He ran the break in two crucial possessions, resulting in scores by guard Jim Masters and Mel Turpin. Kentucky prevailed, 62-58, to advance to the finals.

"But there's something about a tournament final, regardless of where the game's being played. The home court doesn't have the same effect unless your team can go out there and take the initiative from the beginning."

The final was the predicted slow-down, with the Alabama Crimson Tide, the opponent, taking its time with each possession. Alabama's control game had them close throughout, and in the late stages, they

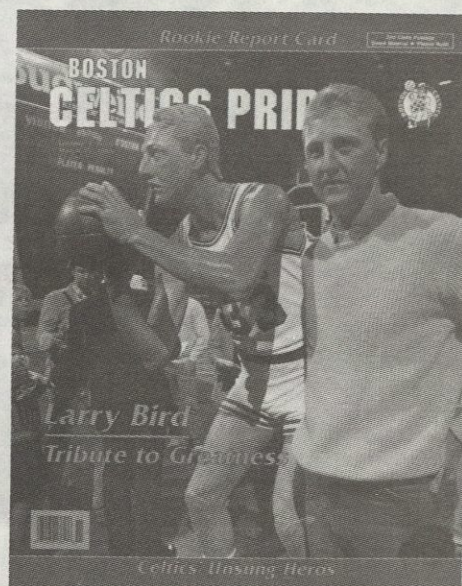
edged in front of UK, 40-39. Down the stretch, although Minniefield played solidly on both ends, Alabama guard Ennis Whatley and Hurt proved to be too strong, with 'Bama coming out on top, 48-46.

In the end, however, it was a proud moment for the guard. In his home state and in the arena he grew up dreaming about, Minniefield was named Most Valuable Player of the set. In Game Two against Mississippi, Minniefield had registered 20 points and 9 assists (his career high of 25 had come earlier that season against Ed Pinckney and Villanova). In the final, Minniefield was an outstanding figure, heroic in defeat, as he scored 11 points with 8 assists and solid defense (critically important in a contest of such slow pace).

"I had to pick this game although I can honestly say there isn't a more important dream than winning a championship. But it is hard to describe the honor in words: walking out into the center of the court at Rupp Arena and receiving that special recognition. It wasn't a championship, but I thought we were on our way toward building a championship team (UK would advance to the Final Four in 1984) so I thought we were on our way. I was just extremely gratified that I would be selected the Most Valuable Player in a place where basketball was so important."

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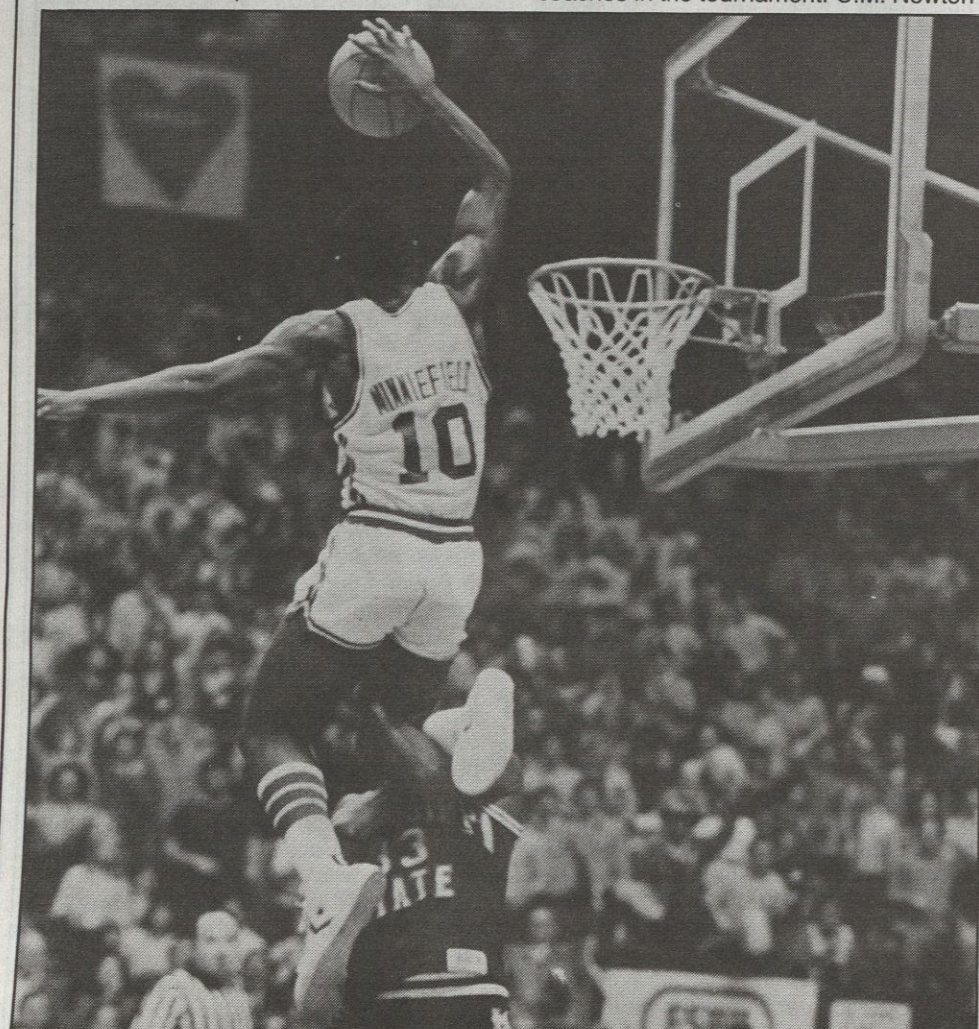
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Dirk Minniefield: Found Ways to Win

SCOUTING REPORT

The Celtics conclude the month with difficult games against Eastern and Western Conference foes. Boston plays Detroit during this stretch and the Pistons have assumed the favorite role in the race for the best record in the Eastern Conference. Boston's journey through Texas last month was hardly a vacation, as the Green ran into hard-fought games in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. The Celtics will be looking for revenge.

Washington, March 23. The Celtics have defeated the Bullets in all four meetings between the teams this season, although the games have been closely contested. For example, the second game of the season, Boston needed Larry Bird's 46th and 47th points of the night to win the overtime game at the buzzer, 140-139. The Bullets have thrived under Wes Unseld, who replaced Kevin Loughery in January. Unseld (also elected to the Hall of Fame this season) immediately placed the veteran Bernard King in a starter's role, thereby establishing a balance up front with power players Terry Catledge and Moses Malone. Other players who have played effectively have been Tyrone Bogues and Frank Johnson. The return of Darrell Walker helps the Bullets.

Keys to the Game. After the Bullets dropped a 106-100 January 27 verdict in Boston, Unseld was asked if he was gratified by the close game despite losing. "No!" he snapped, and when Wes glares, you pay attention. Unseld elicited some productive minutes with a pressing unit against Boston, and King also played extremely well. Celtics' Bird is tough match-up for Washington: too powerful for King, too shifty for Catledge, too experienced for John Williams. McHale averages 24.0 ppg against Bullets and the Celtics' passing game has worked against Bullets, too, as they have 130 assists to Bullets 90

in the teams' four games.

Philadelphia, March 25. The Sixers were once one of the top teams in the circuit, now in disarray. Matt Goukas, a better-than-average coach, was fired during the All-Star break as a sacrificial lamb. Philadelphia still has the talented Charles Barkley, a bona fide superstar (28.3 ppg, 4th in league and 11.3 rpg, 5th), and Maurice Cheeks was again an All-Star (8.3 apg, 8th). But the problem with this team is they have lost the confidence in themselves as a great team in the league. According to an observer, even the great Barkley is less motivated to win. "It's looking more and more to Charles like a lost cause." Speaking of such, the method the organization chose in dealing with the injured Andrew Toney has made that former great lost in Philly. Mike Gminski, acquired from NJ in January is a solid center.

Keys to the Game. "We'll always work as hard as we can against Philadelphia," says Bird. "They're our rivals and we always get a special satisfaction from beating those guys." Cs easily dominated Philly 100-85 in last meeting. Ainge's three-point shooting was key to December Cs win in Spectrum despite 40 from Barkley. Barkley missed last game in Garden with badly sprained ankle. Celtics will need to work to win this game; Philadelphia's key to winning is receiving typically courageous game from Cheeks in order to match up versus Boston's outside game. Then, they hope to turn it over to Barkley. Boston usually looks inside. "We have to look down low," says Dennis Johnson. "We try to get Kevin and Barkley matched up and get points from there." Through late Feb., Cs and Sixers would meet in the first round of the playoffs, because Boston would be #1 seed and Philadelphia #8. Times have changed.

At New York, March 26. Mark Jackson, the Knicks' 1st round draft choice,

appears to be certain Rookie of the Year selection. "He controls the ball all the time in their offense," says Chris Ford. "That can help and that can hurt." The Knicks have played much better in the past six weeks under Rick Pitino. Patrick Ewing, a Walton type, is playing his best ball as a pro, focusing on defense, and as a result his offense is much more relaxed. His 19.7 ppg leads the team. Jackson's 10 apg is fourth in the league. In New York the Knicks play Boston tough. They outworked Boston, 106-98 in January with a scrambling halfcourt press and fast break basketball at the end. The Knicks have received excellent board play from free agent acquisition Sidney Green, who, with 8 rpg, would have looked good in Celtics green.

Keys to the Game. "I don't think there's any doubt," says Jones. "We have trouble with New York when we make poor decisions on the offensive end. That, plus against a pressing team, if you don't check your man on the defensive boards, their aggressiveness will get them points on pure movement." One key to the game will be the Celtics' performance in 2nd of back-to-back games; Cs were 10-5 late last month but defeat to NY in Jan. was second of type. Bird had 32 in 1st half of January Garden game, missed first contest. Boston will need to come out strong from the beginning and establish themselves versus press. NY's defense effective: 104.9 allowed, 8th; lead in turnovers, 21.2 per contest, coming off the press. A young team like the Knicks plays well at home (1-20 on the road). Boston's Ainge will need to run here as will Minniefield.

At New Jersey, March 28. Nets are among the lesser lights of the league but have attempted again to rebuild, adding Roy Hinson and Tim McCormick to unit for sake of change. Both have played well as have John Bagley and Dwayne Washington. Hinson averaged 17 ppg since joining team and he, rather than Orlando Woolridge (also 17 ppg) seems to be the ideal complementary type for the prototype power forward Charles (Buck) Williams (12.1 rpg, 4th in NBA). Williams' 19.0 ppg leads the team and Bagley averages 5.0 assists. Veterans like Woolridge and Otis Birdsong are potential factors. Dennis Hopson, 3rd in the whole draft and Dallas Comegys, coveted by Boston, average 10.4 ppg and 8.0 ppg respectively and are part of rebuilding plan.

Keys to the Game. Boston tempted the fates in January before finally pulling away 103-96 (Cs only led 89-85 with seven minutes to play). "Roy Hinson could be a great player," says one insider, "but he always has had to be talked to all the time, encouraged to be great. It's a confidence thing." Hinson has hurt the Celtics in both Cleveland and Philadelphia and the Celtics will need to neutralize him. Boston will have to play as a team on a mission; no game in March is unimportant and it would be a surprise if Jones doesn't give the starters extended minutes to try and get the win. Celtics have used strong inside game from McHale and Parish (15 rpg vs. Nets) to dominate the series.

Houston, March 30. Action heats up as Bill Fitch, Akeem Olajuwon and Rockets make only Garden visit this season. Houston born blistering first match 129-120 behind Olajuwon's 30 points and 16 rebounds. They've been helped by reborn

JB Carroll (13.6 ppg off bench) and talent of two other ex-Golden State players, Purvis Short (13.7 ppg) and Sleepy Floyd (8 apg). Holdovers Rodney McCray and Jim Petersen (a Johnny Most enemies list member) are fine players at the small forward and power forward positions respectively. Bill Fitch isn't the most popular man around the Celtics organization, but credit him with this: he realized the team wasn't going to win an NBA title with 12 million dollar man Ralph Sampson, but after trying and trying he finally did find a taker.

Keys to the Game. "I have a lot of respect for Coach Fitch," says Bird. "I don't think there's any doubt that he's an excellent coach. The Rockets are a tough tough team down on the blocks, and that's a critical factor to winning in this league." A key to this game and this season is the ability of Robert Parish to continue to be a main driving force as The Enforcer of the Celtics' own inside game. He was elbowed in the head in the first meeting and shaken, didn't play well. Same with McHale, who had problems with the backup Carroll. Will Celtics be motivated to accept the Rockets' challenge on their home turf? Ainge, Minniefield and Bird will need to keep the running game productive. As playoff time approaches, this offense must be solidly entrenched as a weapon for the postseason. Parish must keep Olajuwon off the offensive boards.

Detroit, April 1. "I think Detroit would have to be favored as the team to beat in our conference," says K.C. Jones. "They have a superstar in Isiah Thomas, they have strong board play in (Bill) Laimbeer and (Rick) Mahorn and they have enthusiastic people like John Salley and Dennis Rodman coming off the bench." Pistons scoring led by Adrian Dantley (22.2 ppg), rebounding Laimbeer (11.0 rpg, 6th) and assists Thomas (8.6, 7th). Since K.C. made a point of looking at bench production, a comparison of Pistons bench with the Celtics' bench productivity revealed that the Pistons receive 31.8 ppg from Vinnie Johnson, Salley and Rodman with 4.0 assists from Vinnie and 3 rpg from Rodman and 4 rpg from Salley. In addition, Salley leads the Pistons with 74 blocks. Boston's bench: 26.5 ppg from Roberts, Daye, Sichting, Minniefield and Acres. Minniefield has nearly 4 apg off the bench and Mark Acres' 3 rpg is top number off Cs bench off glass. Hard to figure in rookie contributions in a series of this magnitude however.

Keys to the Game. So the central factor — a haunting refrain maybe — is how effectively K.C. will be able to spot the bench against this gifted Motown contingent. A series of villains this month includes Rick Mahorn and Laimbeer. Last season was turning point for former: his inside game has never been better (10.9 ppg). Celtics must fully intend to take the game inside to Pistons anyway, to get their front line in foul trouble (McHale vs. Mahorn; Bird against Dantley and Parish vs. Laimbeer), and then execute patiently against the bench where Rodman and Salley haven't demonstrated title-necessary poise yet. "Yes, but counter that," says Jimmy Rodgers, "with a backcourt of (Joe) Dumars, Isiah and Vinnie." Yes. That's what's made them the favorite in the East. Interesting test case for Dennis Johnson; it's playoff time again and if the Celtics face a bright destiny, DJ will be very visible here.

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CELTICS MOSTS

Tom Sanders: Most Disqualifications Shows Intense Defense

The dynamic Tom "Satch" Sanders is the Boston Celtics' all-time leader in a negative statistic: Most Disqualifications. With a total of 26 games in which he fouled out, Sanders illustrates how basketball statistics mislead. Arguably, Sanders belongs on a greatest ever defensive list. At six feet, six inches, he was one of the best in the game's history at shadowing offensive greats. He played opposite Tommy Heinsohn, Bailey Howell and John Havlicek during his twelve-year career and he proved to be a model for all great defensive players after him. In the ensuing years since Sanders' retirement after the 1972-73 season, the players who most resembled Sanders in defensive intensity at the small forward position include Bobby Jones, Jamaal Wilkes, Scott Wedman, Michael Cooper, Cedric Maxwell and Rodney McCray. That group makes a statement about the game: underrated, and often overshadowed, they were still responsible for a cumulative total of twelve NBA championships. Sanders won eight championship rings as a player for the Celtics, and championships are won with great defense.

"The game was different when I played," Sanders commented recently. "I think the athletes of today are probably more skilled — better training techniques are available, and I believe that time has brought greater strength to the athlete overall. But I don't really think that the game is played any better than when we played in the sixties. Our team always had an idea of how we wanted to control a ballgame from the moment we walked out onto the court. We made adjustments — the players, Red (Auerbach) — but we always had an idea as a team."

Sanders' playing statistics don't initially impress. He averaged 9.6 ppg and 5.9 rebounds per contest. In the playoffs, though, he improved his averages. In 1963-64 he scored at a 13.3 clip when the Celtics easily defeated the San Francisco Warriors of Wilt Chamberlain and Nate



Tom Sanders: Qualifying Disqualifications

Thurmond, four games to one, in The Finals. The following year Boston again won the championship easily and Sanders averaged 13.5 ppg. That year Boston whipped the Lakers, again four to one, as Los Angeles played without the injured Elgin Baylor.

According to Bill Russell, Sanders' abilities needed probing. K.C. Jones, in his autobiography *Rebound*, also alluded to a man who had humorous idiosyncracies off the court — careful with money, overly fastidious when it came to finding his way through the oft-chaotic Boston traffic. But on the floor Sanders directed the flow in the defensive end. "Red would sometimes ride Satch unmercifully," Russell recalled. "But Red knew what it took to get the most out of his players. Coaching styles were different then."

Sanders' relationship with Russell extended into three distinct eras. The first was when the former was a rookie and the

team was guided by Bob Cousy. The second, beginning in 1964, included the period when K.C. Jones emerged as the starting point guard. Russell (44 minutes), Jones (31) and Sanders (32) played approximately seventy percent of the minutes per game during the final three years of Auerbach's coaching reign and the Celtics' defense was the finest in the circuit. The Celtics were second in 1964 (105.1 points allowed) and first the following season, allowing 104 points per game.

"It was a subtle thing," says Jones, "but defensively we always knew we could go out there and control teams. We let other teams think they could have an advantage, say, on a drive. But it was only an illusion. The man would think he'd have Satch or me beat, only to run into Russell, who was waiting. Or we would trap a (Jerry) West by cornering him; we'd divert West over into sort of a triangle, with Satch moving into a zone between his man and the basket, and Russell shading off of his man into the same 'zone.' So we all played our men, but we still triple-teamed West."

Today Tom Sanders has reached the top of his profession. Again. He is the Director of Special Programs for the league, a program in the NBA specifically designed to combat some of the problems young professional athletes come up against when making the transition from the somewhat sheltered existence in college to the professional life of the NBA. Sanders was formerly the Associate Director of the Sports in Society program at Northeastern University. At Northeastern, the focus was on educating present and former athletes about the problems they encounter when their careers were ended. Sanders had always been forced to think the game through as a player and this approach facilitated his own life adjustment after the game.

The final phase of his playing career actually occurred over Russell's years as coach (1966-69) and the entry of the New Celtics under Heinsohn as coach. He was beginning to lose a step to age, a process brought on by several leg muscle and knee injuries. Russell was forced to limit his former teammate's minutes, and in 1970-71 he missed virtually the entire year due to knee surgery.

"So my minutes were limited by not only foul problems," Sanders mused, "but foul difficulties aren't unusual for a guy who has to go out there and give up his own game for the good of the team's defense. It's a losing proposition; the man I played, whether it was Baylor, Chet Walker, Bob Pettit . . . Those gentlemen could score! Their moves were unstoppable, so the best you could hope for was denying them position and trying to take away passes to them. But often, the results weren't seen. That is, you didn't receive a positive stat if Baylor didn't receive a pass two, three times down the floor. Or if you beat him down the floor to fill the lanes on the fast break."

"No, the numbers you did receive were the negatives. Personal fouls. Those numbers told the times you didn't get to the man's spot in time. Or against players like Baylor or Walker, denying them the ball was often very difficult. They were like guards. They had the ball deep in their team's offensive zone and they depended on beating you one-on-one."

Kodak Photo Tip #4

By Steve Lipofsky, Official Photographer of the Celtics

Last issue we discussed wide angle lenses. This time around, we'll look at the lens that brings us closer to the action, the telephoto. Telephoto lenses start around 85mm. Lenses in the 85mm to 135mm range make good portrait lenses, because they render facial features in proper perspective as opposed to wider angle (shorter focal length) lenses which tend to exaggerate the size of the features closest to the lens.

These "medium" telephotos are great for action photography. They allow you to fill more of your frame with the subject, making for a more interesting picture, while still being easy to focus. This is because they are relatively "fast" lenses; that is, they have wide F stops, making them brighter to look through and also

allowing you to use faster shutter speeds. (Try to select lenses with at least an F2.8 maximum F stop; in these focal lengths they can be purchased inexpensively.)

Another characteristic of telephoto lenses to keep in mind is: the longer the focal length, the shallower the depth of field. This means that with a telephoto lens the area in front of and behind your subject that is in sharp focus will be narrower than with a wider angle lens. This can be helpful in making your subject stand out from the background, but it also means you must focus more carefully.

Some of you may have an autofocus 35mm camera with a built-in telephoto. While these lenses are generally of shorter focal length than those discussed here, the same general principles apply.

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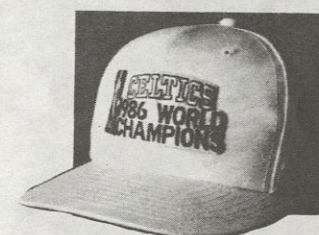
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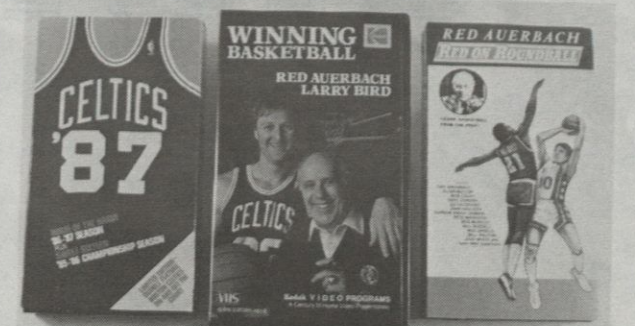
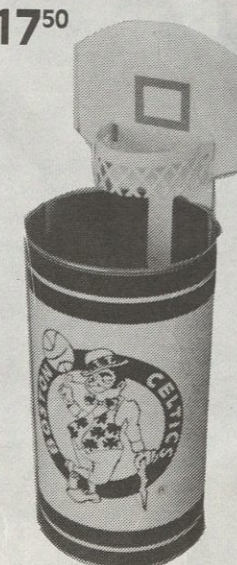
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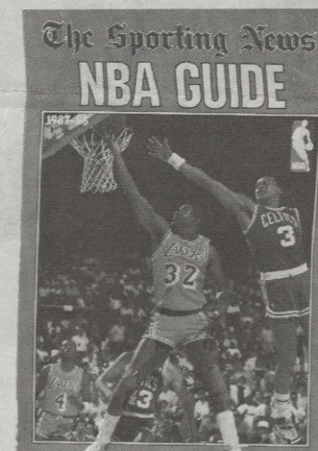
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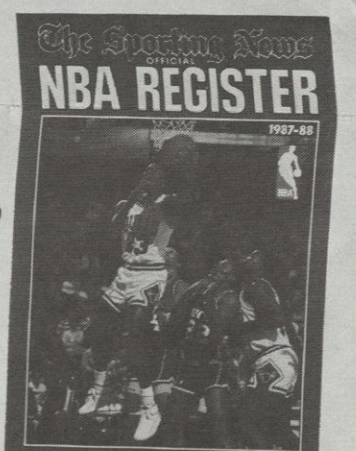
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